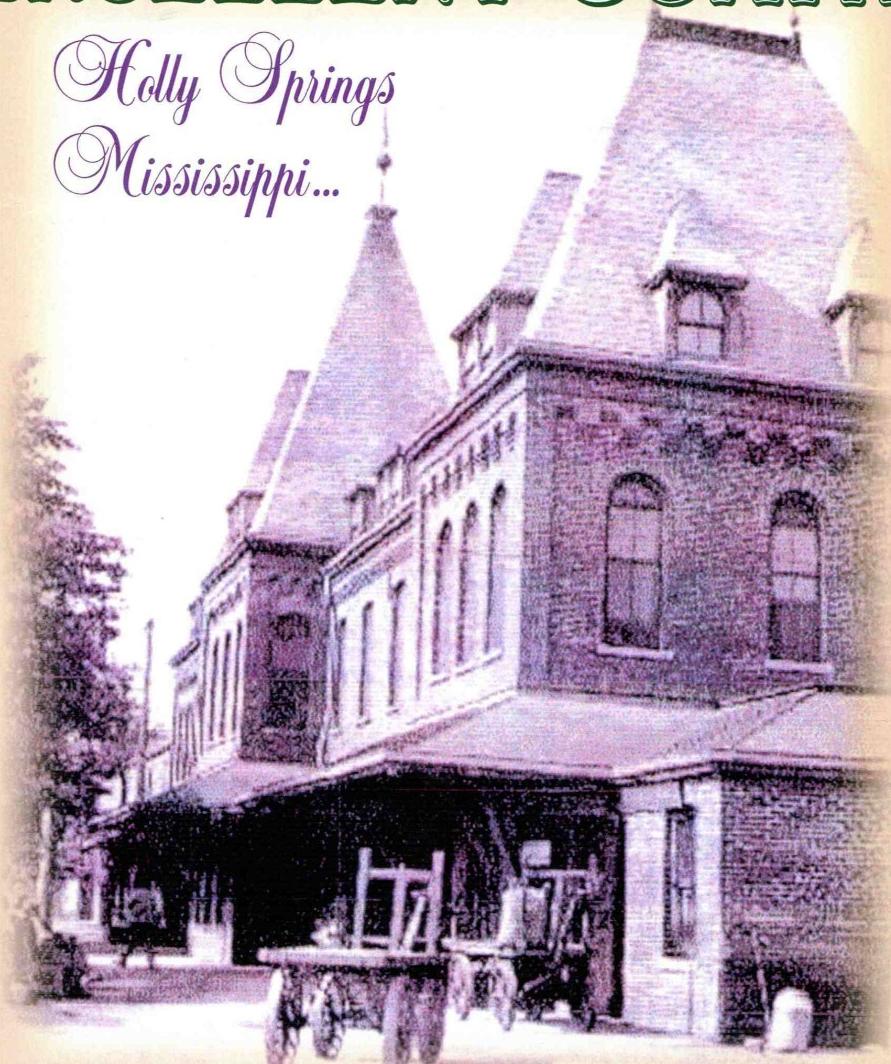


AMID SOME EXCELLENT COMPANY

*Holly Springs
Mississippi...*



THROUGH THE LIFE AND WORDS
OF
JOHN M. MICKLE

AS ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN
The Holly Springs South Reporter (1920-1941)

EDITED BY ROBERT MILTON WINTER

ABOUT JOHN M. MICKLE

by Hubert H. McAlexander, Ph.D.

Professor in The University of Georgia, Athens.

How fortunate Holly Springs and the country are to have had John M. Mickle as their chronicler. Born at "Woodlawn," the plantation home of his grandparents near Lamar on September 5, 1860, he moved to Holly Springs at the outbreak of the Civil War. He lived the rest of his life here, dying at the Tyson Hotel in July of 1942. Her loved town and county and knew both intimately, as evidenced in the amazingly comprehensive recollections gathered and republished here sixty-odd years after his death.

Mr. Mickle was a "war child," a term unfamiliar to most readers. It meant that the war had deprived him of advantages that he would have enjoyed in pre-war times. Thus, after attending Miss Caroline Cutler's school for young children near Spring Hollow, he was able to spend only a few years at Chalmers Institute, a boys' preparatory school, before he left to work as a printer's devil on a local newspaper. The rest of his education, he received from his experiences and from reading good literature.

His newspaper articles republished here show his intelligence, his honor, his powers of observation, his love of life, his humility, and his generosity of spirit. He was, as he notes of his grandfather Dabney Minor – "a democrat aristocrat." And in these pieces he treats all classes and conditions realistically and with respect and good will. He captures the leisurely pace of town life, the web of kinship and friendship, and the bonds forged by the shared experiences of war and plague, of good times and bad. I only wish that he knew how much he has meant to his native place.

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Amid Some Excellent Company

Holly Springs, Mississippi,
through the Life and Words
of John M. Mickle

Edited by Robert Milton Winter

SPRING HOLLOW PUBLISHERS
Holly Springs, Mississippi
2003

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Photo courtesy of the Illinois Central Railroad Historical Society.



Colonnaded façade of the Craft-Fort-Daniel Place on South Memphis Street at Gholson Avenue. Here Mr. Mickle noted that a unique record was penciled on one of the pillars giving the dates of the fifty raids made by the Federals. It illustrated, said Mr. Mickle, "the methodical turn of the owner." Photo by Chesley Thorne Smith.

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Foreword by Dr. Hubert H. McAlexander.

How fortunate Holly Springs and the county are to have had John M. Mickle as their chronicler. Born at "Woodlawn," the plantation home of his grandparents near Lamar on September 5, 1860, he moved to Holly Springs at the outbreak of the Civil War. He lived the rest of his life here, dying at the Tyson Hotel in July of 1942. He loved town and county and knew both intimately, as evidenced in the amazingly comprehensive recollections gathered and republished here sixty-odd years after his death.

Mr. Mickle was a "war child," a term unfamiliar to most readers. It meant that the war had deprived him of advantages that he would have enjoyed in pre-war times. Thus after attending Miss Caroline Cutler's school for young children near Spring Hollow, he was able to spend only a few years at Chalmers Institute, a boys' preparatory school, before he left to work as a printer's devil on a local newspaper. The rest of his education, he received from his experiences and from reading good literature.

His newspaper articles republished here show his intelligence, his humor, his powers of observation, his love of life, his humility, and his generosity of spirit. He was, as he notes of his grandfather Dabney Minor—"a democrat aristocrat." And in these pieces he treats all classes and conditions realistically and with respect and good will. He captures the leisurely pace of town life, the web of kinship and friendship, and the bonds forged by the shared experiences of war and plague, of good times and bad. I only wish that he knew how much he has meant to his native place.

The book you hold in your hands, however, is the product of both John M. Mickle and the Reverend R. Milton Winter, who has provided a rich context for Mr. Mickle's newspaper articles. Drawing upon his own work and research in Marshall County history, Milton Winter has here annotated, cited additional source material, and occasionally corrected Mr. Mickle's forays into our past. In addition he has found wonderful vintage photographs, most never published before, to accompany the essays. Without John Mickle much of our past would be lost to us; without Milton Winter the full contribution of John Mickle might never have been preserved.

Hubert H. McAlexander,
The University of Georgia,
Athens.

Introduction and Acknowledgements.

The impetus for this collection of stories drawn primarily from old editions of *The South Reporter* grows largely out of an announcement made by the editor, March 27, 1941—a notice of intent that was only partially fulfilled due to the unfortunate death a little over a year afterward of their author, Mr. John M. Mickle.

According to *The South Reporter*:

"With the approach of the annual Pilgrimage, April 20-24, Holly Springs people again turn their thoughts to the past and to the interesting historical events of these early days. Many requests have been received at this office for copies of different historical articles prepared at various times by John M. Mickle, veteran newspaperman of Holly Springs who has a better knowledge of local history than any other person. Some of these articles about the history of Holly Springs and Marshall County were written out of his own knowledge and experience, some from information gathered from old papers and records printed in the early days.

"Believing that these articles will be of unusual interest to our readers of today who are not so familiar with the history of Holly Springs, and for those who are keeping scrapbooks of the town, this week we are starting a series of historical articles prepared from time to time by Mr. Mickle and published in varies issues of the Holly Springs papers. We plan to print one article each week from now until the Pilgrimage and from two to three each month for the following four or five months."

Now, some sixty years later, this publication seeks to carry out the project there announced—and let me hasten to say, it is done with the expert help and ready encouragement of the present-day editor and staff of *The South Reporter*.

Although the project was first suggested to me by two friends, Betty Carole Pearson and Marie S. Moore, when I was a fairly new resident of this community, it was sidelined by other interests and responsibilities, to be revived only at a latter day at the encouragement of my friend, former *South Reporter* editor, Walter W. Webb. Even then, I would likely never have attempted the task were it not for the amazing offer of Mr. Kristian Jones, transcription and typesetting specialist for the newspaper, to transcribe the collection of old articles (on his own time), and to compile the index of names which so greatly increases its value to readers and researchers. It is, thus, to Kris's faithful and accurate transcription that the subsequent work owes a great debt.

I also thank Mrs. Linda Jones for her assistance with the layout and scanning of the pictures, and the present *South Reporter* editor Barry Burleson—himself a newcomer, who like so many named in these pages has embraced this community as his own, for his interest and encouragement in the project at every step.

Like Mr. Mickle, Chesley Thorne (Mrs. L. A.) Smith, is another Holly Springs citizen who has a great gift of memory and recall, and who has organized her recollections into two books, drawing on a wonderful collection of manuscripts and photographs devoted to telling the story of her town. Chesley's great interest in this effort and her willingness to draw from her memories and photographs has enriched this project and every project on local history undertaken in the past generation.

Another person whose interest and encouragement has been a great incentive to push ahead with this rather daunting project is Bobby Mitchell, whose work in recording Marshall County cemeteries is a magnificent contribution in primary research on the history of this area. The second edition of his *Cemeteries of Marshall County* was published just as indexing began on this volume, and adds much to the accuracy of the present undertaking.

Gratitude of the highest order is also due to Dr. Hubert McAlexander, a scholar whose knowledge of local history is almost uncanny, and which is underlain by the most workmanlike of disciplined skills in research and critical analysis. He has read this manuscript several times and offered many valuable suggestions—saving this writer from more than one egregious blunder—so that, as authors are obliged to say: “Any that remain are my sole responsibility.”

Here I might also add that to save the expense and unnecessary effort of reproducing scores of photographs already published so recently and so beautifully, I have keyed the articles in this collection to the historical photos published by Mrs. Smith and Dr. Mary Carol Miller, in *Marshall County From the Collection of Chesley Thorne Smith*, and in Dr. McAlexander’s magnificent *A Southern Tapestry: Marshall County, Mississippi, 1835-2000*.

Thanks also are due to my colleague the Rev. Bruce D. McMillan, who has several times done research for this project in the interesting archives of Christ Church—Mr. Mickle’s beloved parish.

Finally, I wish to thank the Marshall County Genealogical Society, the Marshall County Library, and Marshall County Historical Museum, as well as Chancery Clerk John W. Taylor Jr. and most especially his staff, who bore with my frequent visits to their office in search of the key to a large storeroom on the third floor of the courthouse, which is under their jurisdiction. There are stacked large bound volumes of yellowed old copies of *The South Reporter* and its predecessors—a difficult climb up winding stairs, but more interesting to use than the microfilms in the university library at Oxford. In that third-floor room one hot summer’s day, as I laboriously copied Mr. Mickle’s article on the trial of one John Cannady, who murdered a merchant named Marcus Louis on the Holly Springs square, testimony from the courtroom below filtered up the narrow stairway to the quiet place where I worked. It was another murder trial, which, I am happy to say, did not result in a hanging at the edge of town, as did the one whose details Mr. Mickle’s writings recounted so long ago.

Now, three methodological comments. Mr. Mickle moves freely from topic to topic under the broad sweep of headlines he may not have composed. When practical, I have added notes directing the reader to related articles, but a researcher will be advised to make careful use of the index if he or she wishes to follow a thread through this wonderfully textured web of material! Second, I have made only the most minimal annotations to Mr. Mickle’s text, correcting only obvious typesetter’s errors or inserting in brackets a few corrections or additions that were deemed absolutely necessary. Third, and with great reluctance, I add one comment about the matter of race. As was common in newspaper writing for predominantly Caucasian audiences of his day, Mr. Mickle (whose respectful treatment of everyone will be seen by anyone who reads his articles) always identified African-Americans and others of various minority races and religions according to their group or identity. Whereas this is offensive to many in the current era, I have chosen to leave Mr. Mickle’s articles as he wrote them according to the custom of his times, with the hope that the identifications may be of some help in identifying persons, a memory of whom might not otherwise be preserved. By the same token, Mr. Mickle’s use of the word Negro is retained just as he wrote, recognizing this as the preferred designation in use by the African-American community and others of good will in that era.

I hope that any reader who can contribute additional information, or corrections to the text will contact me, so that revisions can be included in future printings of this book.

By selecting and highlighting it, this book will therefore preserve, I hope, a bit of our town’s colorful history, that otherwise might recede into the shadows and be lost. And though the number who remember Mr. Mickle is rapidly declining, I sincerely hope that others, like me, who never had the opportunity to meet this highly observant and affable gentleman, will come to appreciate his powers of observation and skill in reporting, for it is largely through his writings that I have grown, over the years, to feel that this city has always been my home.

R. Milton Winter,
Holly Springs, Mississippi.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH AND TRIBUTES TO JOHN MARTIN MICKLE (1860-1942).

1.

GEORGE M. MORELAND PRAISES JNO. MICKLE.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (October 22, 1936).¹ In writing concerning a recent visit to Holly Springs, George M. Moreland² take occasion in his "Tri-State Rambles" column to throw a bouquet to a Holly Springs news reporter whom all Holly Springs loves and admires. He has the following to say about our dear friend and co-worker, John M. Mickle:

"During my visit to Holly Springs I had the honor to shake again the hand of my good and beloved friend, John Mickle, who knows more about the local history of his city and county than any other person living anywhere. Mr. Mickle has long been connected in an editorial and reportorial capacity with *The South Reporter*, local weekly newspaper at Holly Springs. He has helped to make that newspaper one of the outstanding local newspapers in Mississippi.

"If I had met one other person during my visit to Holly Springs my journey there would have been crowned with success because it was my privilege to meet again my friend John Mickle. Since the inauguration of this column many years ago he has consistently been my friend. One of the first 'history stories' penned by me for this newspaper nearly 15 years ago was on Holly Springs. It was good and accommodating John Mickle who supplied me with most of the material. Since that time when I need historical data on his city is only necessary for me to ask

for it and I always get it—get a wealth of material that is 100 per cent accurate."

What George Moreland has said about this venerable old man is heartily endorsed by all those who have had the good fortune to know John Mickle.

¹ This article appeared in a commemorative publication, edited by Katherine Mattison, et. al., *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936: History of Marshall County Mississippi* (Holly Springs: Garden Club of Marshall County, 1936): 35.

² "Tri-States Rambles" columnist for *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

2.

U.D.C. PAYS TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN M. MICKLE.

Chairman, Citizenship Presents Autobiography of Veteran Newspaper Man.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (May 4, 1939). The Edward Cary Walthall Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, at its last meeting paid a special tribute to Mr. John M. Mickle, veteran newspaperman of Holly Springs, a man loved and revered by all Marshall County.

Chairman of Citizenship Study, Mrs. H. L. Samuels, is giving at each meeting of the chapter a tribute to some outstanding citizen of Marshall County. Selected first in the study was Edward Cary Walthall, for whom the Chapter was named. Mr. Mickle was given next place.

Mr. Mickle was asked by Mrs. Samuels to write a sketch of his life, and in his usual humble and sincere manner he wrote the following short autobiography which was read before the club, and was enjoyed so thoroughly that the members are anxious that it be reprinted in *The South Reporter* so that Mr. Mickle's many friends may have the pleasure of reading it. Mr. Mickle writes as follows:

"I was born September 5, 1860, at Woodlawn, the plantation home of my maternal grandfather, Dabney Minor, near old Salem in what was part of part of Marshall County, Miss., now in Benton County.

"My parents were Major Belton and Lucy Herndon Minor Mickle, and there were seven of us, all of who have passed on except the oldest, my sister Jennie (Mrs. W. Henry Anderson) now of Thonotosassa, Florida, and myself.¹

"My father was a civil engineer in the party which surveyed the Mississippi Central, now the Illinois Central Railroad. My mother's cousin, Brodie S. Crump, was of the surveying party and introduced my father to, among others, my mother.

"My Mickle grandparents lived in another state and died before I was born. My mother told me I was a pretty baby and I have a lock of golden hair clipped from my head. I must have possessed an ear for music, for my mother told me she knew several lullabies, and I would growl until she found the right one.

"The War Between the States followed in seven months after my birth and we moved to Holly Springs for protection from the Yankees, while my father was in the army—and got right in the thick of them. I have lived in Holly Springs ever since.

"Strange to say I remember quite a little of the War, but no fighting, chiefly lines of blue.²

² Maria Mason, wife of local businessman Carrington Mason, wrote her memories of the Civil War in Holly Springs. She told how the townspeople locked their doors, closed the shutters, and stole timid views of the blue-coated soldiers marching by. As Grant massed troops for his assault on Vicksburg, she wrote that: "It was a sore sight to Southern eyes, but numbers, style, and elegance of equipment in comparison with the shabbiness of the Confederate cavalry offered a fascination which could not be resisted. The blue grass paddocks of Kentucky and Tennessee had supplied the officers with the finest of thoroughbreds and the splendid uniforms and gay flags presented more the effect of a pageant than an army. The next day the infantry began to arrive. My home [the dwelling now called "Hamilton Place" at the foot of South Memphis Street] stood at the end of the street on which they came into town, so that they turned to the west in front of the house, marched one square, then turned south again into the Oxford Road, so I believe I saw every regiment in the army, for although the sight was heartbreaking, it was magnificent. First would pass by the regimental band playing always

¹ Belton Mickle (1828-1906) and Lucy Herndon Minor Mickle (1836-1882), were the parents of five children—four of whom rest in the family plot in Hill Crest Cemetery. They are Jane Minor Mickle Anderson (1855-1939), Lucy Herndon (Mrs. Edwin S.) Willis (1857-1925), John Martin Mickle (1860-1942); Mercer Mickle (1877-1895). John M. Mickle's tombstone is carved incorrectly. He was born in 1860, not 1858 as the grave marker states.

"I saw the courthouse burn.¹ The most exciting experience I had was when my grandmother snatched me from my bed against which a Yankee held a torch.² It is but just to say he was

'The Girl I Left Behind Me'; then marching four abreast in handsome new uniforms, came the infantry, and as the music of one regiment died away, the next could be heard in the distance, and so on and on for three days they came, as we thought, a great blue monster, going to swallow up the devoted victims of the Confederacy. The wagon train was five days long. I wanted very much to see General Grant and supposed his escort would be specially distinguished but either because they were all so elegant or he was so modest, I failed to recognize him." "Van Dorn's Raid into Holly Springs, or Why General Grant's Flank Movement on Vicksburg Failed," *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (May 30, 1901); see Olga Reed Pruitt, *It Happened Here: True Stories of Holly Springs* (Holly Springs: South Reporter, 1950): 56. Cora Harris Watson, a Confederate soldier's widow, who made her home with her Holly Springs in-laws, Senator and Mrs. J. W. C. Watson, during and after the war, wrote in her diary on August 5, 1864, that "A Negro brigade came in and I looked at them through the shutters. A wagon train passed 'till ten o'clock at night. There were 200 wagons and two droves of cattle. We heard the brass band way in the night." R. Milton Winter, ed., *Civil War Women: The Diaries of Belle Strickland and Cora Harris Watson* (Lafayette, Calif.: Thomas-Berryhill Press, 2001): 15.

¹ An anonymous letter to Colonel S. E. Cary (who later married Mrs. Cora Watson), reproduced in *The Memphis Commercial Appeal* in 1933 gives this account of conditions in Holly Springs in these days: "On Wednesday last the Federal cavalry came in, broke into Mills, Ross & Co.'s back window, scattered books, papers, etc., in confusion, broke open everything, finishing what had not been destroyed a few weeks ago when they made almost a complete smash-up; broke into McGuirk's store again and finished it, set fire to the Court House, but it was extinguished. It might as well have been burned, for it is a perfect wreck. Books, papers, etc. benches, courtroom desk, judge's stand, all burned. The store that Joe Farrell occupied, and your storehouse next door burn up. Mr. John D. Martin's residence totally burned with everything in it not an article saved. McConnico's residence fired, but only some outbuildings burned—the place a perfect wreck. Lee Roberts' residence burned, and not allowed to save even a garment. Mr. Minor [Mr. Mickle's grandfather] completely plundered in town and everything destroyed at plantation..."

² Such stories were fairly common among female citizens of Holly Springs who, with all the men gone to fight with the army, found themselves alone to face the enemy. Belle Strickland, a nine-year-old residing in the home of Senator J. W. C. Watson while her widowed father was off in the army, recorded events that took place near the Mickle home, Saturday, August 27th 1864: "There has been so much confusion

acting without knowledge or consent of his officers.³

"Just after the War I was following my father and a friend when the bells began to toll at the hour of President Lincoln's funeral. They

since Wednesday that I have not written in my journal at all...Wednesday night I stayed with Aunt Mollie, Thursday about dinnertime the Yankees came in on their way from the south. They treated Mr. Dagg very badly and have done very badly at Miss Lida Anderson's too and took everything Mrs. McWilliams had and took all of Aunt Mollie's meat. They did not do anything at our house. They were the meanest set we had ever seen. We had a quiet time Thursday night but in the morning we were waked up by hearing that they were searching at Mrs. Hull's. We jumped up and dressed as quickly as we could and before we were dressed we heard the ladies over there screaming very loud. Then five or six more came out and got on their horses and galloped away. Almost directly Mr. Crump came with the guards. Then we went up there and heard what they had done. Eight or nine men rushed in the house and while some stayed downstairs the rest went upstairs. When they came to the young ladies' room, one opened the door and put his head in, and when he saw they were not dressed he said, 'Shame on you for sleeping so late.' Then he stepped back one or two minutes, but before they could dress he was back and began to break open the trunks. Miss Susan went to get out of his way, [but] he caught hold of her dress and said, 'You stay here,' and she pulled away from him so hard that she fell down. This made her so angry that she said that she wasn't afraid anymore and thought if he touched her again, she would scratch his eyes out. She and Miss Bettie Thomas and Miss Bettie and Miss Lucy Hull began to scream and Mrs. Hull downstairs joined in, hollering, 'Murder! Murder!' so the robbers said they will bring the whole Yankee nation on us. Then they went out and got on their horses and went away as fast as they could. They took off all of Brodie's clothes and a good many of Mrs. Hull's spoons. They told Mrs. Hull, 'Hush, you old fool,' and said if she did not stop her noise they would ram a chunk down her and burn her house. Some of the officers told Mr. Crump they would find out these men and punish them, but he said it was no use." *Civil War Women*, 35-37; see also Charles W. Ramsdell, *Behind the Lines in the Southern Confederacy* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1972): 56-57.

³ Civil War historian Gaines M. Foster has written that: "the war not only complicated the household work of women but also forced many to face personal danger as they rarely had before." He remarks that, "women wrote of their anxieties when the men departed and they waited alone for the arrival of northern troops." *Ghosts of the Confederacy: Defeat, the Lost Cause, and the Emergence of the New South, 1865-1913* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987): 32.

both looked grave and agreed that the assassination of Mr. Lincoln would bring great trouble upon the South, although it proved to be the work of a few misguided men.¹ I had little schooling and owe much of what I have to work in the newspaper, association and reading. Fortunately, my mother saw to it, my reading was of the best from boyhood.

"As a boy, I felt a pull toward newspaper work and in June 1874 got a job as printer's devil in *The Reporter* office, and have been in such work ever since except for a few years work in a store.

"In 1886 I borrowed the money from my mother and bought *The Reporter* from Col. John Calhoon, but was not successful and in a few years had to sell it; but continued to work in either *The Reporter* or *The South*, and with *The South Reporter* when the papers were merged by Mr. Frank Mattison and Mr. C. H. Curd.

"My best work, I believe, was a series of 'stories' as they are called, begun in 1930 with one about Chulahoma. My friend and employer, the late Mr. Bramwell Davis, encouraged me to go ahead with them. They pertained to old homes and families and life in the old days. They possessed no literary merit, but did have some of human interest and have been of help to many research workers.

"I am an Episcopalian and have been of some value to my church, from "pinch-hitting" when a boy at blowing the organ when the sexton didn't show up, to serving on the vestry. I was elected to the vestry in 1880 and served continuously as vestryman, junior and senior warden until January 1, 1939, when Mr. Douglas Baird

¹ Not all in Holly Springs held such charitable feelings. Cora Watson recalled these sharp words uttered by the Rev. Henry Harrison Paine, the strongly Confederate minister of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church when the first (and factually incorrect) reports of Lincoln's assassination reached Holly Springs: "Tuesday, April 18, 1865: Sister and I were just setting out on some visits when Mr. Paine came. He said it had been telegraphed that Lincoln and Seward are dead. The Yankee papers are in mourning. These colleagues in crime met their doom at the same time. Lincoln was assassinated in the Washington theatre, one of the accomplices turning off the gas while the other shot Lincoln in the darkness. Seward had his throat cut in his house. Mr. Paine says that it was the just judgment of God that these violent men should die violent deaths." *Civil War Women*, 111-12.

was elected as my health did not permit me to attend meetings.

"Bishop Green says my record for continuous service exceeds any in the Diocese of Mississippi."²

² Chesley Thorne Smith recalled that "Mr. Mickle walked all over town. He was an Episcopalian, as was Gus [L. A. Smith, Jr., Mrs. Smith's husband], who tells this story. When Mr. Mickle would get a new pair of shoes, Gus would watch the soles of his shoes when the old gentleman knelt to pray in church. He did this to see how fast he wore them out. With all that walking, the holes grew rapidly. May Alice Booker said he used to stand for a long time in front of her house gazing at the old Mickle house across the street on the southeast corner of Chulahoma Avenue and Minor Street [years later, the house was torn down and a new house erected by Doris and Leslie Sigman on the spot, where Mrs. Linda Stubbs lives now]. During the depression I was already a member of the Episcopal Church. When Mr. Mickle became disabled, the women of the auxiliary gave him a bathrobe for Christmas. He was overjoyed with the gift, which he called his magenta robe. After that, whenever the ladies met, we would each contribute a quarter for Mr. Mickle. Twenty-five cents was big money in those days." *Childhood in Holly Springs: A Memoir* (Lafayette, Calif.: Thomas-Berryhill Press, 1996), 78. Lois Swanner remembers the elderly Mr. Mickle as a man of modest stature: "He was one of only two adults in town whose eyes I could look directly into when I was a child. (The other was Mr. John E. Anderson.)" Interview with R. Milton Winter, July 23, 2002.

3.

FUNERAL RITES TODAY FOR JOHN M. MICKLE.

Veteran Newspaper Man Passed Away Tuesday Evening After Long Illness.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (July 9, 1942). Funeral service will be conducted this afternoon at 4 o'clock for John M. Mickle, age 84. He died Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock at the Tyson Hotel, where he had made his home for many years.

Services will be held from Christ Episcopal Church by the Rev. William Mercer Green II, rector of the church. Burial will be in the Mickle lot in Hill Crest Cemetery.

Mr. Mickle had been ill for several months, and had gradually grown worse for the past few weeks.

Several years ago he was injured by a car in crossing the street and spent several weeks in the hospital. Although he recovered sufficiently to walk around some and be up a great deal of the time, he was never able to be active following this accident. Mr. Mickle, son of the late Belton Mickle and Lucy Herndon Minor Mickle, was born in Benton County but moved with his parents to Holly Springs when quite a young boy. He was living in Holly Springs during the time of the War Between the States, and had a vivid memory of the unusual happenings of those trying times.

He was also a resident of Holly Springs during the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1878 and was among the refugees who went to the country at that time.

When a young man he entered newspaper work as a printer and later was employed as a reporter at *The South Reporter*. He was connected with the Marshall County newspapers for over fifty years. He was active in newspaper work until his retirement about four years ago, when his health failed. Even during his last illness, he often sent news articles to the paper.

Using his remarkable knowledge of the history of Marshall County gained through personal

experience and his contacts in the newspaper field, several years ago Mr. Mickle wrote a series of historical articles on Holly Springs that have been preserved for future generations.

Mr. Mickle was a member of the vestry of Christ Church for fifty years. For ten years he was Junior Warden and for twenty years Senior Warden. He also took great interest in the Sunday school¹ and attended regularly upon the services of the church as long as his health would permit.

He was a member of the Knights of Pythias and was Keeper of Records and Seals for the local lodge for more than 25 years. He was secretary of the Elks Club for many years when it was active here.

Surviving are two nephews and a niece of Jackson, Tenn., Belton and Denny McClain, and Lucy Minor McClain, and a nephew, Ridley Anderson, of Tampa, Fla.

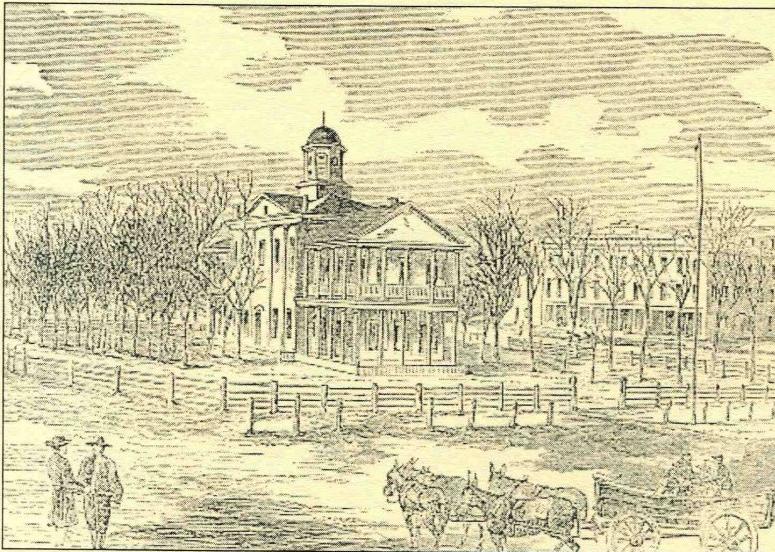
Active pallbearers will be Matt Coffey, Hugh Rather, Harris Gholson, John Craft, Walker Humphreys, and Otto Hedderick, from the vestry at Christ Church.

Honorary pallbearers will be E. B. Ferris, Douglas Baird, L. A. Smith, Sr., C. H. Curd, Frank Strickland, J. C. Totten, Jim Tyson, Joe Tyson, Jim B. Woods, Harry Orr, Dr. Edward Thorne, Dr. H. S. Phillips, L. A. Smith Jr., Rufus Shuford, William Cook, W. W. Anderson, Gerard Badow, C. H. Curd Jr., Jesse Owen, H. H. Levy, Frank Wall, E. H. Crump of Memphis, and Tom Burton of Michigan City.

¹ The late C. C. Stephenson Jr., a lifelong parishioner of Christ Church, remembered Mr. Mickle's entertaining Sunday school lessons for the children more than sixty years after they were given. C. C. Stephenson to R. Milton Winter (March 7, 2001).



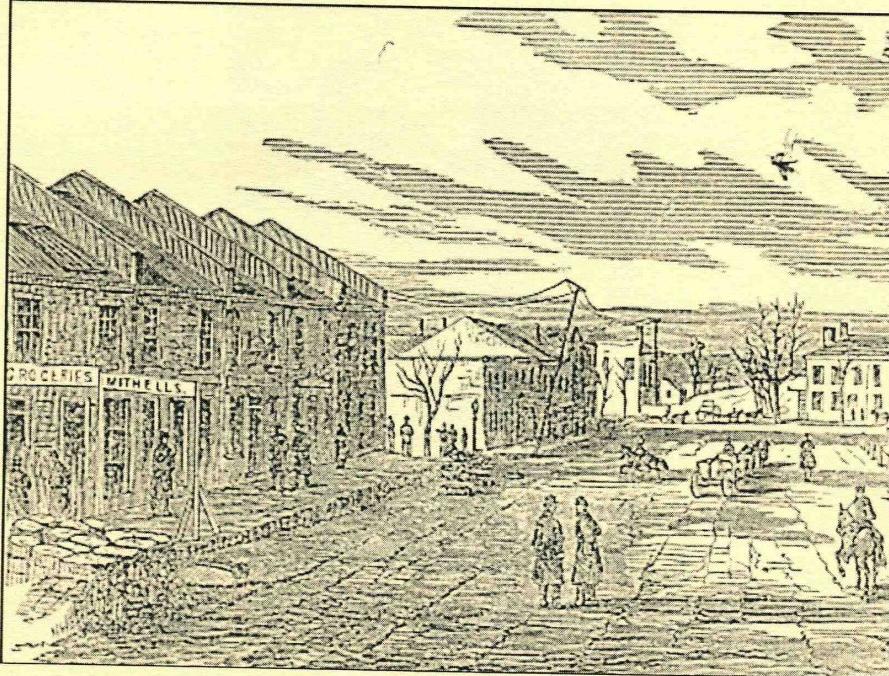
Mr. John M. Mickle on one of his walks. Older residents recall how, in later years, he strolled about Holly Springs, observing its people and recording its history. Photo from *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*.



The 1837 Marshall County Courthouse appears in a well-known drawing by Alexander Simplot for Harper's Magazine in the winter of 1862, shortly before Confederate general Earl Van Dorn's raid on December 20 of that year. Mr. Mickle wrote "Strange to say I remember quite a little of the War, but no fighting, chiefly lines of blue. I saw the courthouse burn." That fire happened August 27, 1864. Mr. Mickle remembered that, "It was burned during the war 'by the Yankees, but not by authority.' The drawing also shows the Magnolia Hotel on the north side of the square, which Mr. Mickle said 'had the original Edwards House at Jackson 'skinned to the block.' It housed during his military visit here in the early part of the War of the 60s, Major-General Breckinridge of Kentucky and of the Confederate Army. It was one of the anomalies of the border states that he had a brother who was a Major-General in the Federal Army. But alas and alack!

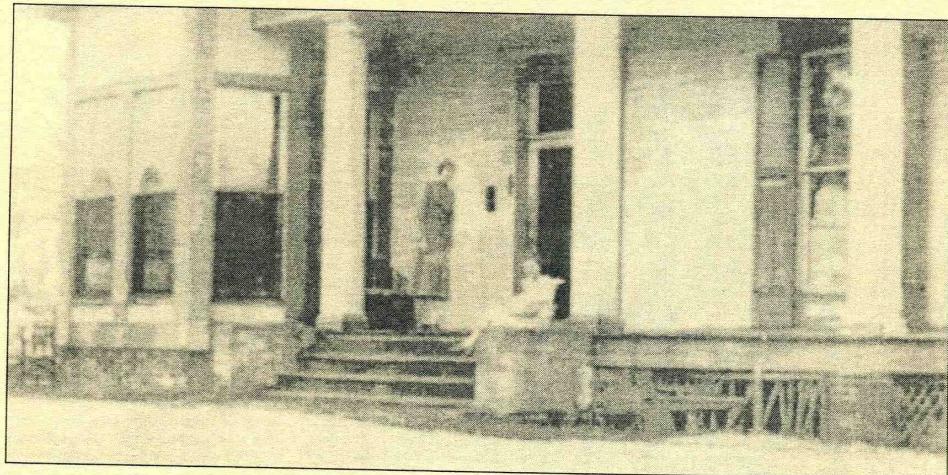
And alack some more! The hotel was destroyed by fire, during Van Dorn's raid, probably."

Pen and ink sketch courtesy of John N. Bobb.



Scene by Alexander Simplot, showing buildings on the south and east sides of the square, drawn in December 1862, shortly before Van Dorn's raid. Mr. Mickle wrote that, "My earliest recollection of the square is connected with two incidents, the first I am convinced was the morning after Van Dorn's raid in the war, though I was scarcely three years old. I was in the Kelso bakery store, used as a sutler's shop, and it had been looted. Someone (I think it was Dr. S. C. Gholson Sr.) took a handful of greenback money from a box and remarked 'that's their money,' and threw it back."

Pen and ink sketch courtesy of John N. Bobb.



The Mickle Place on West Chulahoma Avenue at the southeast corner of Minor Street. Mr. Mickle's family moved to the house, known then as the old McCulley Place. He wrote that, "It was a most delightful neighborhood on that street into which we moved in 1870." Photo courtesy of Miss May Alice Booker.

Chapter I. Old Holly Springs: The Town.

1.

OLD DUMM & BISHOP TAVERN TO BE RAISED.

One of the Most Ancient Landmarks of Holly Springs
Will Be Replaced By Modern Bungalow Built By Wall Doxey.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (December 31, 1925). The Dumm & Bishop Tavern, one of the oldest landmarks in the city, is being demolished to make way for a three-room bungalow to be erected on Spring Street by Wall Doxey, who has bought the property.

The tavern¹ was located on the east bluff of "Holly Springs"² which suggested the name of the city and was built probably in 1835 or 1836, before the Indians left here for Indian Territory, now Oklahoma.

¹ The structure which is the subject of this article was the second tavern to serve the town. The original tavern overlooking the Holly Springs was built by Samuel Ramsey McAlexander (1804-1877), a pioneer born in Virginia who came to Holly Springs from Alabama in 1835, a year before the first lots were sold. No deed to this tavern lot survives, so that we know of the tavern's existence only in the earliest Board of Police minutes. In an editorial in *The Holly Springs Gazette* (November 4, 1842), editor Thomas Falconer commented on this early structure: "Some seven years have now elapsed since the first log cabin was erected on the site of our town, as a temporary tavern house. It consisted of two rough-hewn log rooms, with a passage in between, and a board shelter to eat under. Such was M[cl]Alexander's tavern, which has long since 'vanished in smoke,' up some man's chimney or otherwise disappeared." See Hubert H. McAlexander, *a Southern Tapestry: Marshall County, Mississippi, 1835-2000* (Virginia Beach: Donning Publishers, 2000): 11.

² The origin of the town's name is elsewhere (see p. 181) traced by Mr. Mickle to a directive by pioneer settler A. C. McEwen to ship materials for his store to "the holly springs," at the location now called "Spring Hollow," just north of the present town square. The spot is regarded as almost sacred by local citizens, for from there came the lyrical name which has graced the town ever since.

Indians used the spot as a camping place especially those Indians from North Alabama in their annual hunting expeditions to the delta country.

Later the white man's road from Memphis to Pontotoc, where the land office was located, led by the same place, and it was in turn used by them. The tavern fronted west on the spring hollow, and on what is now Spring Street, which was the only business street in town, the public square with its quadrangle of stores following later.³

Jesse P. Norfleet,⁴ ancestor of the prominent Norfleet family in Memphis, was in business

³ The Dumm & Bishop Tavern stood on lots 159 and 160, east of the original Spring Hollow. On December 7, 1836, John Morgan purchased the whole block bounded by the present Spring Street, Park Avenue, Randolph Street, and Falconer Avenue. William E. Williams purchased the property in 1840, and later deeds show that their daughter Sarah had married Willis Bishop. Hubert H. McAlexander to R. Milton Winter, March 19, 2001.

⁴ In 1845, J. P. Norfleet (1814-1889), built the house known as "Dunvegan," located at 154 West Gholson Avenue, presently the home of Mrs. S. Vadah Cochran Jr. J. P. and Jane H. Norfleet were the parents of a daughter, Ada, who married the industrialist and entrepreneur H. Oscar Rand. In 1861, the Norfleets traded residences with James J. House, who two years before had acquired the house known today as the Norfleet-Rand Place at the northeast corner of Maury Street and East Park Avenue. *Holly Springs South Reporter* (April 24, 1986); see photo Stanley Schuler, *Mississippi Valley Architecture: Houses of the Lower Mississippi Valley* (Exton, Pa.: Schiffer, 1984): 90.

there, as was Hiram McCrosky,¹ grandfather of Harvey McCrosky of this city. Mr. Woodruff had a gunsmith shop on the site of Mrs. Una Thompson's residence² and his home, a double log cabin, still stands just east of Mrs. Thompson's, and is known as the Fennell Place.³ In this shop Mr. Woodruff made a rifle literally, lock, stock, and barrel.

The old tavern has three rooms below and two above and was built of logs, wonderfully put together in the manner of the workmen of that day. The table was largely supplied from teaming wild life of the surrounding forests.

Came stagecoaches, crude affairs at first, which used conch shells to blow warning of their approach from Rust College hill, and then over the trail back of Henry Gatewood's home to the tavern. It would take an aeroplane to get over the route now.⁴

More pretentious hostelry followed on the square as the town grew—the Williamson Hotel on the site of the I. C. Levy store, the Bracken House and Thomas House just a block off the square on West College Street.⁵

Then the splendid Magnolia Hotel on the north side of the square, a three-story brick with imposing front of iron grill and fret work. This was the storm center of Southern chivalry, beauty and wealth for a short time before they broke on the rocks of the War Between the States.⁶

¹ Hiram A. McCrosky lived in a small cottage, built in 1844, on East Gholson Avenue near the southeast corner of its intersection with Spring Street.

² Mrs. Thompson's home stood at the northeast corner of Spring Street and College Avenue.

³ In the 1960s, Charles N. Dean Jr. purchased the house and remodeled it extensively, removing the porch which extended across the front and adding dormer windows. Later he moved it to a lot on East Van Dorn Avenue.

⁴ Mickle refers to the disastrous erosion that has blighted so much land in the area.

⁵ The Williamson Hotel (or Marshall Inn) stood on the northeast section of the square. Another hostelry called the Union House stood on the east side of the square near the site of the Levy Store (to-day's Linwood's Department Store). Both of these hotels were built in the late 1830s. Hubert H. McAlester to R. Milton Winter, March 19, 2001.

⁶ The hotel was a headquarters for the officers of whichever army happened to occupy the town. It can be seen in a detailed sketch of the town square drawn

Then the tavern had served its purpose as such it was weather boarded and ceiled and converted into a private residence. Mr. Dumm lived there for many years,⁷ and also Jack Holland, picturesque character of antebellum days.⁸

by Alexander Simplot for *Harper's Magazine* in the winter of 1862.

⁷ Colonel Alfred Dumm, born in Ohio in 1819, died in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1898

⁸ See also pp. 11-12.

2.

FACT AND LEGEND OF OLD SPRING HOLLOW.

**Beautiful Spot from which Holly Springs derived its Name
Surrounded by Fanciful Tales.—Now to Become City Playground.**

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (April 2, 1931). Before Hernando DeSoto stood on the bluff near Memphis in 1541, and first viewed the mighty Mississippi River, the spring hollow which with its holly trees and springs suggested the name of this city, was known to the Indians who made hunting expeditions from North Alabama to the Delta, and used as a camping ground.

Tradition is silent as to what they called it, but it is reasonable to suppose they used some beautiful Indian term signifying "holly springs."

I have never learned how the holly trees disappeared, for there have been none within my memory. Early settlers, and even the first native sons, have described the hollow as a most beautiful place, with the little lake, the springs and the hollies, and some fine forest trees, a few of which still remain.

The late Maj.¹ Brodie S. Crump told me that one could swim a horse in the lake fed by many bold springs, and the late John Mayer said that he had caught fish in the stream that ran from the lake under the bridge that formerly spanned it on Memphis Street.²

My first visit to spring hollow was in the latter part of the war when I was a child. Some Federal troops were camped by the spring house and several were amusing themselves wrestling. Mere

boys they seemed, and my childish mind wondered how they could play in such troublous times. But it was youth smiling through, and was the proper thing to do.

OLD LOG TAVERN BUILT

The white man saw the advantages of the place, and like the Indian camped there. Soon a tavern of logs was built on the bluff back of the Sadler Place. It was possibly built before W. S. Randolph laid out the town in 1836 and stood intact until a few years ago when Wall Doxey³

³ Wall Doxey (1892-1962), was an important figure in Holly Springs history. Elected to Congress in 1928, Doxey was appointed to fill the unexpired term of longtime U. S. Senator Pat Harrison in September 1941 and served until defeated by James O. Eastland in the Democratic primary of 1942. He was then elected sergeant at arms of the Senate and served in this position during the last years of President Roosevelt's administration and into the term of President Harry S. Truman before retiring to Holly Springs. George M. Moreland described a visit with Doxey and others with these words: "It was early afternoon when I arrived at Holly Springs. I parked my car in the courthouse square and walked aimlessly down the street. Before proceeding half a block I was hailed by a friend. It was Hindman Doxey, prominent attorney of Holly Springs, who, by the way, bears the name of that immortal son of proud old Arkansas, Gen. Thomas C. Hindman, whose great-nephew he is, who extended a hand in greeting and bade me accompany him to his office, where I met his distinguished brother, Wall Doxey, congressman-elect from the second district of Mississippi....Now, dear readers, imagine me a-goin' about town with a congressman as an escort! On our swing about court square I think I met most of that city's leadership. Finally we visited the office of Eagleton M. Smith. This scholarly and most affable man is a lawyer by profession and one of God's noblemen by nature....While being entertained at Mr. Smith's office he called my prized friend, D. M. Featherston, a member of the Mississippi Legislature. He came. Then we added another annalist to our party when Mr. Doxey, seeing John M. Mickle, veteran newspaperman of

¹ Southerners loved titles, and a military man of that era would often be addressed by his military title long after his active service had ended. Those who amassed different sorts of titles, "Judge," "Colonel," or "Mayor" could choose the style of greatest honor by which they wished to be addressed. Southern people, also, were all too happy to heap honorific titles on those whom they admired.

² The street was so named because north of the Post Office, it was also the highway leading to the Bluff City. It is mentioned by this name in *The Marshall County Republican* (November 3, 1838).

bought the place to enlarge his lot and had it torn down.

He had the logs removed carefully, however, and presented them to the city to be re-erected on the spring lot grounds, and this will probably become part of the plan to beautify the park.

The stage from Memphis stopped there coming over a road that has been obliterated by deep gullies. The tavern did a thriving business with stage passengers, prospectors and trappers.

Perhaps no spot in Holly Springs has been more identified with the town in many ways, good and bad. It gave the city's name, furnished water for many purposes, gave the city a location for its big gesture, for those days, of the gas works; and in later years a site for the Water & Light plant.

In years gone by it was a quiet retreat for gambling and drinking parties. On the banks of the little stream grows mint that some jolly old dog in antebellum days sowed there.

The city has been unkind to the hollow, making it a dumping ground for over half a century. But it is coming back into its own again, as the city has undertaken a plan for improving and beautifying it, and the preliminary work has already been done.

Mayor C. N. Dean has appointed Mrs. Lillian Stille, home demonstration agent; T. F. McGehee, director of the Experiment Station, and John R. Barkley, county agent, to have the work in charge.

LEGEND OF THE SPRINGS

The spirit of legend has served to sustain the old spring hollow in its travail of debasement and aid in restoring it. A pretty story is intertwined about the beautiful Indian maiden, La-

Holly Springs, and probably more conversant with the local history of Marshall County than any other person living, walking along the street, hailed him, and added him to our party...." Moreland closed by saying that he believed that Wall Doxey "will be a creditable successor to that scholarly genius of Blue Mountain, Dr. B. G. Lowery, as eloquent as he is excellent, honest and faithful." *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (December 29, 1928).

toka, and her rival lovers, Tullahoma and Paola, in "The Legend of Holly Springs."¹

This legend has been told in prose and poetry, and I take from one of Mrs. Helen Craft Anderson's scrapbooks this story:

"The place was of surpassing beauty and loveliness. Its gurgling fountains, beautiful green sward, matchless oaks and warbling mocking birds made it an earthly Eden. Here the red man had his wigwam and chased the wild deer.

"Among all the braves none so brave as Tullahoma, of all the fair ones none so fair as Latoka. Tullahoma wooed the beautiful Latoka, but her smiles were not for him, and the lovely maiden yielded her heart to the graceful young chieftain, Paola.

"Then was the breast of Tullahoma fired with vengeance. He slew the beautiful Latoka, and at a short distance from the spot met and slew her youthful lover.

"The Great Spirit loved his murdered children, and struck the spot where either lay; and hallowed fountains broke forth, whose limpid waters soon mingled into a bright and sparkling stream. He then commanded and the evergreen holly grew around each fountain, an emblem of undying love.

"And here in after years the chieftains held their councils, and the warrior braves and dusky maids lived and loved, and sang and danced

¹ During the years after the founding of Holly Springs, legends and anecdotes—some say given by the Indians—have been cherished as accounts of the origin of the city's beautiful name. While not factual, these are part of the town's literary heritage. One of these, the story of Latoka, a Chickasaw princess, and her suitor Tullahoma and Paola, was set to verse in meter reminiscent of Longfellow's "Song of Hiawatha," by Annah Robinson Watson, wife of James Henry Watson, and daughter-in-law of Judge and Mrs. J. W. C. Watson, a well-known Holly Springs family. See "Mrs. Annah Watson Dies; Noted as Poet," *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (May 1, 1930). A prose account of the legend by George M. Moreland appeared in the *Commercial Appeal* (December 20, 1928), reprinted in the *Holly Springs South Reporter* (January 10, 1929); also William Baskerville Hamilton, *Holly Springs, Mississippi, To the Year 1878* (Holly Springs: Marshall County Historical Society, 1984): 127-28. Mrs. Watson's poem appeared in *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 34.

young life away, until the pale-face came and, driving them away called the spot—Holly Springs.

"Such is the legend current here as to the origin of the name Holly Springs. It is romantic enough and pretty enough, so I will seek no other, even if it was a matter of consequence."

LINES TO MEMPHIS VISITORS

On the occasion of the visit here of the Memphis Rotary Club on February 6, 1929, to present the Governor's Shield to the Holly Springs Rotarians the legend was written in prose poetry by Bramwell Davis, editor of *The South Reporter*, as part of the program for the day. It follows.

"In the long ago haunts of the famed Chickasaws, Tullahoma, so handsome, regardless of laws, fell in love with Latoka (her father a chief). She was FACTS and LEGEND OF, beautiful, graceful, near past all belief.

"Now, a rival, Paola, appeared on the scene, but the brave Tullahoma felt sure of his queen—that he'd hold her affection he long had enjoyed, so he smiled without being the least bit annoyed.

"Oh, Alas! and Alack for the lover so gay, who had never yet fathomed the feminine way. As he strode through a dell (it is sad to relate), such a sight met his eye that it meant a sealed fate.

"In the arms of Paola, Latoka reclined, as if only to anger our hero designed. Tullahoma at once raised his Tomahawk keen, which he sank through [indecipherable] his queen.

"Tullahoma is said to have fled right away and has never been seen, not to even this day. Though the Chickasaws sought, everywhere, yes they did, he was never more found than the treasures of [Captain] Kidd.

"The almighty Great Spirit of Chickasaw land caused springs to burst forth from where death laid its hand, and green trees with red berries to mark the deep dell where Latoka and her lover embraced and then fell.

"Holly Springs is the scene of the legend as told. The story has brought us much fame but no gold. It may be that from Memphis some whis-

per may leak as to how we may find the vast treasures we seek."¹

¹ Other accounts of the town's origin, including versions of the Latoka legend may be found in *It Happened Here*, 5-6; and Hodding Carter, "A Proud Struggle for Grace: Holly Springs, Mississippi," in *A Vanishing America: The Life and Times of the Small Town* (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1964): 56-57. The name of the brash young Chickasaw chieftain has been perpetuated in the name given by Mr. and Mrs. George Messick of Memphis to an interesting old house they purchased and restored in the 1980s at the northwest corner of Park Avenue and North Randolph Street in Holly Springs. The small brick home, one block east of Spring Hollow, was built in 1871 by J. J. Sigman, and was later owned by Eliza Stephenson Potts (1875-1895). See photo, *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 92.

3.

SITE OF THIS CITY WAS SOLD AT \$7,000.

Interesting Indenture on File in Chancery Clerk's Office Recorded
Disposition of Lots Now Comprising Business Section of Holly Springs.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (August 20, 1925). One of the interesting documents recorded in the chancery clerk's office is an indenture dated November 13, 1863,¹ reciting the conveyance by John B. Moore and wife, Delila, for \$7,000, of section 6, township 4, range 2, west, to certain parties, also the fact that it was planned to lay out the city of Holly Springs on it and states the disposition of the net proceeds from the sale of lots.²

The indenture was entered into between John B. Moore and his wife, Claiborne Kyle and Beverly G. Mitchell of the second part and Samuel McCorkle, John Hardin, W. S. Randolph, and L. D. Henderson acting commissioners for themselves and in behalf of parties of the third part.

Section 6 comprises now the more thickly settled part of the city, with the public square about in the center. The price paid John Moore for it in 1836 was \$7,000.

The net proceeds from the sale of lots were to be divided among the parties of the third part as follows: One eighth part each to James M. Boyd and Erasmus P. McDowell, one-twentieth part to Leander R. Guy, one-fortieth part each to David S. Greer, Willis W. Cherry and Samuel McCorkle; one-sixtieth part each to Joseph Caruthers and Sackfield Maclin; one-fortieth part each to Thomas J. Word, Henry Love, James Colbert and Colbert Moore; one-twentieth to John C. Randolph, one-fortieth each to Frank Squires and John Hardin; one-twentieth to Lor-

enzo D. Henderson, one-fortieth each to John Gordon and Angus Gillis; one-eightieth to Spearman Holland, and one half of the whole to W. S. Randolph.

¹ The original deed was dated May 13, 1836.

² Hubert H. McAlexander has written extensively about the founding of Holly Springs. See "Flush Times in Holly Springs," *Journal of Mississippi History* 48 (February 1986): 1-14; "The Saga of a Mixed-Blood Chickasaw Dynasty," *Journal of Mississippi History* 49 (1987): 289-300; and *A Southern Tapestry, Marshall County, Mississippi, 1835-2000* (Virginia Beach, Donning Co., Publishers, 2000): 8-37.

4.

SPRING STREET WAS THE FIRST "MAIN STREET" OF HOLLY SPRINGS.

City Founded in 1836 by W. S. Randolph and Descendants of its
Businessmen are Still in Business Here around the Square,
which was Early Pulsing Heart of the Place.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (November 20, 1930).¹ Spring Street was "Main Street" of Holly Springs, possibly a short time before it was founded by W. S. Randolph in 1836, and, descendants of its businessmen are still in business here on the square.²

Jesse P. Norfleet, father of Frank and Cham Norfleet of Memphis, had a cabinet shop on the site of the Baptist Church. Eli Walker, father of the late R. E. Walker, worked for him, and his great-grandson, Walker McDonald, is now with the Lucas Furniture Company.

Later Mr. Norfleet entered the furniture and undertaking business with Israel Sailor,³ under the firm name of Norfleet and Sailor.⁴

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter* (March 27, 1941).

² Whitmel Sephas Randolph, who hailed from West Tennessee, had been operating an outpost a mile south for more than a year, then moved to a site near one of the springs. Many stopped at Randolph's post and found good camping. Randolph Street which runs north and south past the site of his home, preserves a memory of his name in Holly Springs. See *Southern Tapestry*, 10-13.

³ Israel Sailor (1817-1896), was a builder, responsible for many houses in Holly Springs. One of his favorite finishes on a house was to stucco over the brick and score the stucco to resemble stone or marble. He may be responsible for the interior plastering of the Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches, which are finished in this manner. His home, at 201 South Center Street, at the corner of East Chulahoma Avenue, was once covered in stucco, in the manner described here, and is presently owned by Mrs. Lois Swanee. The house now called "Airliewood" on East Salem Avenue is perhaps the best known house in Holly Springs to be covered with exterior stucco in the manner here described. Another surviving home, covered in stucco scored to look like cut stone, is the abandoned house

Hiram A. McCrosky had a shoe store on Main Street, and his grandson, Harvey McCrosky, is doing business here under the firm name of Anderson & McCrosky. The wires are crossed as to whether one of these stores was on the east side or west side of Main Street.

Manufacturing in the form of Woodruff's gunsmith shop was carried on and the shop on the site of the home of Frank Stojowski and Mrs. Una Thompson.⁵ It fronted on Main, and his residence still stands, as part of Mrs. Grier's home.

Woodruff literally made a rifle, carving the butt and boring the barrel, doubtless like those use by the embattled farmers on Concord bridge, who "fired the shot that was heard 'round the world."⁶

Main Street faded out with opening of the square in 1836. The town snapped into prosperity at once.

My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dabney Minor, moved here from Spotsylvania County, Virginia, in 1836, but located on Woodlawn plantation in Old Salem neighborhood.⁶

Writing to a cousin in Virginia, my grandfather said Holly Springs was teeming with land buyers, and lots were going fast and at good prices.

at the corner of South Bethlehem Street and East College Avenue, across from the old compress. Erected in 1859, this was later home to the McDermotts who ran the restaurant in the 1886 depot.

⁴ See photo, *Southern Tapestry*, 92.

⁵ Mrs. Thompson's house stood at the northeast corner of Spring Street and East College Avenue.

⁶ See *Southern Tapestry*, 11, 107.

This, when the town was only a few months old. An Episcopal missionary, writing in the early records of Christ Church about four years later, estimated that the population was between three and four thousand—doubtless overestimated.¹

My grandmother told me the land was wonderfully rich and beautiful, heavily timbered with oak, hickory and chestnut, but no pine near Holly Springs. The primeval forest resembled an English park, for there was no underbrush, and it had been kept down by the Indians, burning the grass annually. There was a wealth of wild flowers and all streams were clear and filled with game fish. The late Capt. John McGowan insisted that salmon used to run in streams annually.

SQUARE THE PULSING HEART

This was the empire that was to support the "City of Flowers,"² and enable its citizens to make history, local and national. And "the Square" which I make the subject of my story today, was the pulsing heart of the place. On and round it was to surge a life that was brilliant, intensely interesting and never dull, though business might be.

The people were almost wholly descendants from the British Isles, whether they came from North or South. They came principally from the South Atlantic states.³

The hub of the square, the courthouse, was originally a frame structure, about the size of the present one before it was remodeled in 1926. It was burned during the war "by the Yankees," but not by authority.

¹ The Rev. Colly A. Foster.

² Holly Springs writer Sherwood Bonner remembered the town of her youth as a "sleepy, prosperous little town—so pretty that the country papers called it the 'City of Flowers,' and never tired of extolling its exquisite gardens, spacious handsome houses, and dainty park where the young folks walked on summer evenings and fed tame squirrels or made love to each other on the 'swinging seats' under the linden trees." "From '60 to '65," *Lippincott's* 18 (October 1876): 500-501.

³ See William O. Lynch, "The Westward Flow of Southern Colonists Before 1861," *Journal of Southern History* 9 (August 1943): 304 and Frank L. Owsley, "The Pattern of Migration and Settlement on the Southern Frontier," *Journal of Southern History* 11 (May 1945): 164-68.

A federal command resting here put some of its own men, who were prisoners temporarily for some reason, in the courthouse for safe keeping, and these climbed up and fired the clock tower. The colonel was furious about it and "dammed" them furiously.⁴ Fortunately the public records were saved.⁵

The courthouse was built in 1870 and remodeled into the present handsome structure in 1926. Fireproof walls now protect the public records.⁶

⁴ The Holly Springs courthouse survived Van Dorn's famous raid, December 20, 1862, but on August 27, 1864, it burned down. A passage from nine-year-old Belle Strickland's diary gives the flavor of events the day the courthouse was burned. "After breakfast we went over to Aunt Mollie's and [were] very much troubled. The Yankees have searched her house four or five times and had taken thirty pieces of meat from her and cursed her and said they would burn her house. When we came home we heard that the 12th Iowa had come in town and would be put out on provost guard and we all were very glad for we thought we would be quiet, but before they could be put out the courthouse caught on fire and burned up. We all are very sorry that the old town clock is gone." After the war, J. W. C. Watson and others were appointed to go to Washington to apply for government aid to rebuild the courthouse. They were unsuccessful, so that in 1865, local citizens raised \$25,000 by a tax levy for a new brick building. See *Civil War Women*, 36.

⁵ Belle Strickland described events on the square a few nights before the courthouse burned. "Monday, August 22nd 1864. Last night after we all had got to sleep we were waked up by a man going along the street hollering 'Fire! Fire! The whole town is on fire.' And we all jumped up and dressed and when we went out we saw the whole side of the square on fire. We went nearly to it. We saw that clean from Doctor Litchfield's store up to Mr. Scruggs was in a blaze. Mr. House got the men to bring water and they stopped the fire at Mr. Scruggs'. It looked beautiful and we looked at it a while and came home and went to bed. To-day we heard that five or six thousand went from Moscow down south and we think that they sent a scouting party who set the square on fire. This morning there was a report of the Yankees and this evening there was another. Mrs. Watson and Miss Lizzie went up to see Miss Carrie Craft. This evening I went to Mr. Clark's and stayed 'till night. We were very afraid thinking that the Yankees might come in and burn the town. And we slept in our clothes." *Civil War Women*, 33.

⁶ The courthouse, completed in 1870, was designed by the architectural firm of Willis, Sloan, and Trigg. Construction was supervised by John B. Fant, and Eli Whitaker was the contractor. Local Democratic leaders were very critical of an expenditure of

Three lines of business are still carried on in the stores in which they started. There was a drug store in the Dancy Drug Store building¹ before the war. Vincent opened the barbershop about 1870 on the north side of the square. E. A. Shaw succeeded him and gave many of the middle age native sons their first shave. The barbershop of those days served as a club, and always had a copy of *The Police Gazette*. Ladies in passing always averted their heads that they might not see men in their shirtsleeves² and collarless—believe it or not.³

\$403.89 for a carpet for the courtroom by the Republican administrators then in power. Wings were added to the courthouse nearly doubling its capacity. Windows were replaced throughout the structure changing the building from an Italianate-Romanesque to a classical revival appearance. See Bill Gurney, *Mississippi Courthouses: Then and Now* (Ripley, Miss.: Old Timer Press, 1987): 99-100; *It Happened Here*, 7-9; see information and photos, Mary Carol Miller. *Marshall County From the Collection of Chesley Thorne Smith* (Dover, N. H.: Arcadia Publishing, 1998): 9, 14; *Southern Tapestry*, 75, 129; Mary Carol Miller and Mary Rose Carter, *Written in the Bricks: A Visual and Historical Tour of Fifteen Mississippi Hometowns* (Brandon: Quail Ridge Press, 1999): 93.

¹ The Dancy Drug Store stood at the southeast corner of Memphis Street and Van Dorn Avenue, in the building where the Walter Utley Realty Office is now located.

² In 1869, author Kate (Sherwood) Bonner recorded a bad example when she told her diary how she had felt when she chanced to see Henry Martyn Paine, the Presbyterian minister's son and something of a rake (for whose attentions she had fled), drinking in a saloon near the town square. Paine had once inspired her to write, "Surely God never made a nobler-looking man," but his conversion to the Republican Party and election as county attorney on the "radical ticket," coupled with her sight of him in a low grade house of entertainment, "the Can-Can," made its negative impression. She wrote, "Looking in, I saw a sight that is stamped on my brain—Mr. Paine with his coat off, & a glass raised to his lips. He turned his face almost as I did mine and its expression—wild, defiant, glaring, he flushed, and with blood-shot eyes—I shuddered as though I saw some wild animal." "From '60 to '65." In a later generation, Chesley Thorne Smith (born, 1910), wrote that ladies always wore hats and gloves to go to the square in the afternoon, and she was taught the following as proper feminine etiquette for the square: "Speak to everybody, white or colored. Someone you do not know may know you." "Never look into the barber shop as you pass." "Don't make a habit of going to school through the square." "Don't make yourself common on the square: don't be seen too often on the square." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 6, 22.

³ Women seldom entered stores in this era, citing disagreeable elements of town squares—not least that

Whittington opened a meat market about 1870 where Con Bonds still conducts one. Prior to that meat markets were operated in the municipal house on the site of the old power house. In the rear of the market house was the calaboose for city prisoners.⁴

One of the locations of the post office before the war was in part of *The South Reporter* building and the slit in the door is still there⁵—come around and we will show it to you. Another and perhaps earlier location is owned by C. N. Dean near the City Hall.⁶ The post office has boxed the compass since then, coming finally to anchor in the present splendid government building.⁷

In my youth there was only one railroad and I think two mails a day, the one from the north and by far the largest arriving in the mid-afternoon. The post office force was small and it took an hour or more to open the mail.⁸

almost all stores in that era sold whiskey--as reasons for delegating almost all purchasing responsibilities to the men of the household. Of course, widows and unmarried women often had to shop, but analysis of Holly Springs store ledgers by historian Ted Ownby of the University of Mississippi shows that this was rare. Prior to the Civil War, men usually selected even the cloth which women sewed to make their own dresses! *American Dreams in Mississippi: Consumers, Poverty and Culture, 1830-1998* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999).

⁴ Southerners referred to the jail as the calaboose. Robert B. Alexander (1814-1891), who owned a large plantation just south of Holly Springs noted in his diary, November 11, 1861, that: "I went to the calaboose to see about Skidmore (Negro) stealing a pig & selling to my old Jim. I brought home the pig & Skidmore together." *Diary of Robert B. Alexander*. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Jackson, Mississippi.

⁵ The former *South Reporter* building located at 154 S. Market Street, is to-day the law office of C. Collier Carlton Esq.

⁶ That is, the little yellow clapboard building, originally built to house the Presbyterian Church, recently used by the Chamber of Commerce.

⁷ The present post office on the square was built in 1925. Before that there was no home delivery. Chesley Smith recalled that "you could pay a fee for a mailbox or use general delivery and pick up your mail from the window of the post office." When the new post office was built, Chesley's stepfather took her grandmother to see it. "It took much persuasion to get her there because a lady never went to the post office." Addendum, *Childhood in Holly Springs*.

⁸ A schedule of the Mississippi Central Railroad dated March 8, 1868 shows the southbound mail train departing Jackson, Tennessee at 12:20 p.m., arriving

At that hour the post office became the exchange and general meeting place for the town and several hundred people would gather. This was not repeated on Sunday, for many people did not go for mail on Sundays.

VAN DORN'S RAID

My earliest recollection of the square is connected with two incidents, the first I am convinced was the morning after Van Dorn's¹ raid in the war, though I was scarcely three years old. I was in the Kelso bakery store, used as a sutler's shop,² and it had been looted. Someone took a handful of greenback money from a box and remarked "that's their money," and threw it back.³

in Holly Springs at 5:20, and the northbound mail departing Canton, Mississippi, at 4:15 a.m., arriving in Holly Springs, at 1:40 p.m. Conservative preachers and church judicatories regularly decried "Sabbath mails," and condemned railroads for their "noisy desecration" of the divinely appointed day of rest.

¹ General Earl Van Dorn (1820-1863), of Port Gibson, Mississippi, was responsible for the only significant military engagement fought in Holly Springs during the Civil War. Not a battle, the raid nonetheless captured the local imagination, and still inspires discussion among students of history. See *Southern Tapistry*, 64-65.

² Maria Mason recalled that the sutlers—civilian suppliers who catered to the military—"that curse of the army," followed Grant's army to Holly Springs by the hundreds. "All the little old shops on the public square which had nothing but the sleepy comfort of good times, were crammed to their utmost capacity with whiskey, canned goods, and cheap (?) clothing, 'til they fairly shook with a delirium of excitement. The Negroes, liberated by the coming of the Yankees, swarmed in the streets, spent their money, and got drunk in celebration of their freedom." "Van Dorn's Raid into Holly Springs, or Why General Grant's Flank Movement on Vicksburg Failed," *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (May 30, 1901).

³ For another account of this incident, see pp. 93-94. A Federal pay car at the depot was also blown up. By one account, a local resident was passing by on a mule. He dismounted, laid great sheaves of uncut bills across the animal for a blanket, then rode home to start a fortune with the currency he had picked up. *It Happened Here*, 59. The young son of Martha Reese (Mrs. Rufus) Jones, who had felt the pangs of hunger more than once, took advantage of confusion on the town square, in which Van Dorn's men had broken open the stores and set fire to the buildings, scattering provisions of every kind in every direction, including hundreds of barrels of flour which were left rolling about the streets. By one account, the youth spirited away a barrel of flour, which he rolled into his mother's storeroom. He anticipated the speedy return

The other incident was about the close of the war. Not all of the Confederacy's troops regular or irregular, were recruited from the "flower of chivalry," there were some precious cut throats among them. Both sides tolerated irregulars, but true soldiers held them all in contempt and hung the enemies whenever it caught them.⁴

of the Federal troops and surmised that they might go hunting, therefore he emptied the flour into a cedar chest and burned the heads, hoops, and staves of the barrel, thus providing against the loss of his biscuit. A few hours later, he made another trip to the ruined stores and saw casks of rice split open and the snowy grains sifting into the dust. He filled a sack with rice, getting about two bushels. Rice would not roll, so he caught an army mule and got the rice up on its back and made his way home through the crowds of soldiers, horses, and wagons unnoticed. Mrs. N. D. Deupree, "Some Historic Homes of Mississippi," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society* 7 (1903): 344-45. Cyrus F. Boyd, of the 15th Iowa Infantry, who arrived in Holly Springs two days after the Van Dorn raid reported that "Fully one-half the fine buildings on the north side of the square were blown to pieces. There had been a bank in one of them and some gold and silver had been melted among the rubbish and the soldiers were digging to their knees in the brick bats." "The Civil War Diary of Cyrus F. Boyd," cited in John K. Bettersworth, ed. *Mississippi in the Confederacy—As They Saw It* (Jackson: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1961), 1:206-206

⁴ Cora Harris Watson told her diary of such persons: "Tuesday, May 2, 1865: Sister and I walked down to Mrs. Craft's to try to hear some news. While we were sitting there, heard five or six pistol shots. Stell and I went to the door, and saw four or five soldiers—drunk—spurring their horses over the town cistern, riding furiously about the square, firing their pistols and swearing. All the gentlemen had retreated from the square and taken refuge around the corner of the Presbyterian Church. I am sorry to see men wearing our uniform so disgracing themselves. These men were some of Fort's who refused to go South, and I suppose felt perfectly reckless since they had become deserters." Bullet holes in the bricks—evidence of this incident—may still be seen around the front door of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church. In 1995, when the church's heart-pine floors were refinished, two Civil War bullets were found embedded in the wood. Their trajectory seems to have been on a line from the gallery into the north aisle. See *Civil War Women*, 115-116.

5.

HOLLY SPRINGS SQUARE MUCH CHANGED BY FATHER TIME.

Days are Recalled When Courthouse Was a Frame Affair, with a Board Fence Around It and Also a Hitching Rack—Some of the Old Farms Named.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (December 11, 1930).¹ This is the second installment of my story of the square, the first dealing with it before the war and this for the first twenty-five years or so after, but first just a little of the square during the war.

Mrs. Tom Quiggins has loaned me a clipping from *The Commercial Appeal* showing a sketch of the square taken from *Harper's Weekly* of January 10, 1862. I wrote the story which accompanies the picture about twenty-five years ago when I was correspondent for *The Commercial Appeal*, and I borrowed the copy of *Harper's Weekly*² from the late W. A. Jones.³

The frame courthouse had a large two story porch on the east side, probably the main entrance, and an entrance on the south side; the north and west sides are not visible.⁴ A wooden

fence surrounded it, and outside was the hitching rack.⁵

The three-story brick Magnolia Hotel covers almost all of the northwest block. It was built and operated by Bradley & Co., a short time before the war under the agreement with the city council that they were to have the sole retail liquor license for ten years. It was burned during the Civil War and never rebuilt.

A few Federal soldiers and army wagons are shown. No wooden awnings in front of the buildings are visible, if they were there. Buildings on the south and much of the west side of the square were not destroyed during the war and are easily recognized.⁶

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² The sketch of the square, along with one of the Depot and Armory were made by *Harper* sketch artist Alexander Simplot, who also made drawings of Davis' Mills, Grand Junction, and the Presbyterian Synodical College at LaGrange, Tennessee. See *Southern Tapestry*, 14, 53.

³ William Augustus Jones (1844-1919), the son of pioneer settlers Egbert R. and Martha Reese Jones, was a Holly Springs merchant. He married Miss Maggie Mason, the daughter of William F. and Matilda C. Mason. The couple lived at what is now 305 South Craft Street in the house built by her father, and known now as "The Magnolias," until recently the home of Mrs. Everett Slayden.

⁴ The courthouse was originally planned as a brick building, but the design approved in July 1836 was changed, and a clapboard structure was erected. Still, as the drawing by *Harper* sketch artist indicates, it was an elegant building and set a tone for the architecture of the town. The cupola-topped courthouse was completed in 1838, replacing a temporary structure built of logs for \$136 in 1836. See *Southern Tapestry*, 14-15.

⁵ In the next generation, Chesley Smith wrote about the hitching rack. She said that they removed the hitching chain around the courtyard when the inner half of the square was paved. "It had been there since before the Civil War and was still used during my childhood. At intervals, big rectangular solid posts made of wood stood there, and through the top of each, was a hole for the chain." See *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 3. The cast iron fence (now at "Fleur de Lys" on South Memphis Street), added by the county when the courthouse was rebuilt in 1870, was financed by a special tax levy of one mill in 1871. It was removed in the 1930s. A portion of that fence may also be seen in the courtyard of the Bank of Holly Springs. See *It Happened Here*, 96-97.

⁶ Kate Bonner described scenes on the town square prior to the war: "The planter and the merchant, as the one ordered and the other measured jeans and linsey for the hands; the young men in broad-brimmed hats and negligent neckties, who lounged at the street corners and arranged the details of fox-hunts and game suppers; the village great man and the village loafer—all had the same common interest." "From '60 to '65."

INTERESTING OLD ALMANAC

I am indebted to Lizzie Polk,¹ colored, for the loan of part of an almanac issued in 1873 by a drugstore.

A sketch of Holly Springs states that it has one railroad, the Mississippi Central—now the Illinois Central; another, the Memphis & Selma Railroad, which is graded from Holly Springs to Memphis; and cars may be running by January (the guess was ten years too soon). It is now the Frisco.² Three other roads are projected: the Holly Springs, Brownville, Memphis & Oxford.

Holly Springs has two papers, *The Reporter*, and *The Independent South*, and is lighted by gas.

There are a few pages of the almanac left and these contain law cards of Walter & Scruggs (H. W. Walter and James M. Scruggs) Watson & Manning (Edward M. Watson and Van H. Manning, later congressman); G. Wiley Wells (who came here during the carpetbag regime), Stith & Phillips (R. S. Stith and G. S. Phillips); Strickland & Fant (Maj. William M. Strickland and James T. Fant); Featherston, Harris & Watson (Gen. W. S. Featherston, Col. Thomas Harris and Richard L. Watson); Watson & Watson (Judge J. W. C. Watson and his son James H. Watson),³ of Holly Springs, and Harris & Harris of Ashland.

Physicians' cards are: Dr. F. W. Dancy; Drs. Dougherty & Gray; Dr. F. M. Fennell and Drs. McKie & Holbrook. Dental cards are: Dr. War-

¹ Miss Polk, and her brother Henry, referred to elsewhere in these pages, were black people of standing in the community. He operated a shoe-repair shop. The family had been slaves of General Thomas Polk on Craft Street, and Miss Emily Polk lived in the house still known as the Polk Place at 180 S. Craft Street. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 73.

² The Kansas City, Memphis & Birmingham Railroad commenced operations between Holly Springs and Memphis in 1885. It later became part of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway, later part of the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe System.

³ James Henry Watson, son of J. W. C. Watson, attended the Virginia Military Institute while his father represented Mississippi in the Confederate Senate. He later graduated from the University of Virginia and joined his father's law firm. He and his wife were active in all aspects of Holly Springs social and cultural life.

ren C. White, Dr. L. A. Stephenson, and Dr. E. L. Lawrence.

Only one other ad, a full page, appears among the leaves, the drug store, and is devoted to—read it you doughty ones—brandy, vintage of '57; whiskey, rum, wine, ale (for the high hats, others would find beer at the saloons), tobacco and snuff. As though to connect up the drug store, four medical waters are offered.⁴

Holly Springs was very wet then, as practically all other towns. Oxford, because of the University, was theoretically dry, possibly the only dry town in the state; but whiskey could be had there without much trouble.⁵ A popular hotel keeper got whiskey for three weeks on being hooked in the hand by a cow—attention of Dr. Henry, the veterinarian, is directed to this sovereign remedy.⁶

⁴ Americans consumed an amazing amount of liquor in the nineteenth century. Heavy drinking had become more prevalent following the American Revolution, and the same seems to have been true during and after the Civil War. In 1792, secretary of the treasury Alexander Hamilton reported that the annual consumption of spirits was two-and-a-half gallons per person. By 1810, this amount had increased to four-and-a-quarter gallons. The figure peaked in 1823 when *The Boston Recorder* estimated that each American drank an annual average of seven and a half gallons, and in the early days of the republic, all who lived on the frontier were regarded as "intemperate." "The conditions in those days," as historian Roger Burlingame has noted, "When, in the West, whiskey supplanted rum as the prevailing beverage, when it was homemade, untaxed, and essential to every celebration—civil, military, and religious—were so entirely without restraint that, in the light of modern researches into alcoholism, the survival of our rugged ancestors and the evidence of their immense achievements are astonishing indeed." *The American Conscience* (New York: Knopf, 1957): 211-12. Vast amounts of liquid corn were stored at various times on the Holly Springs square—including that brought to the city by Federal authorities during and after the Civil War. See *Civil War Women*, 94. Mr. Mickle was, of course, telling his tales during Prohibition. Holly Springs had bootleggers—but many citizens bowed to the exhortations of the clergy and abstained from the use of intoxicants.

⁵ Until about 1970 a large roadhouse stood on Mississippi Highway 7 just above the Lafayette-Marshall County line. Here students would come to purchase liquor—in such large numbers that on Friday and Saturday nights the state highway patrol would be called out to direct traffic.

⁶ Not all were so fortunate. The Rev. John McHenry Geary, Presbyterian minister at Spring Creek, south of Waterford, petitioned the presbytery in 1891,

Practically all drug stores kept whiskey and many general stores. A clerk in one store drew a gallon of whiskey in a jug in which a lizard was cooling himself—it was a busy day and the clerk did not stop to wash the jug—and as the negro was taking a drink it floated on the top and into his mouth.

DISTILLERY IN THE HOLLOW

Down in the spring hollow behind the water works was a three-story distillery, later known as Johnson's mill after it had been converted into a cotton gin¹ and gristmill. In my boyhood a boy son of the proprietor fell into a swill tub and was so badly scalded that he died two days later.²

for disbursements from the invalid fund to purchase intoxicating liquors for medicinal purposes. While appointing an agent to oversee the infirm man's financial affairs and expressing "sincere and deep sympathy" for his plight and sufferings, the members resolved that they were "bound to insist that not a dollar [of the church's invalid funds] shall be spent for intoxicants, except under the prescription of a physician." Minutes of the North Mississippi Presbytery, 2:75, 94, 211. Geary's body rests in the old Presbyterian cemetery at the site of the Spring Creek Church.

¹ See photo of an early local cotton gin in Miller-Smith, 15.

² Following the Civil War, Spires Boling, a local builder responsible for some of the grandest of Holly Springs's ante-bellum houses, operated a distillery in Spring Hollow, behind the home he had built for himself, where Randolph Street meets Salem Road. James Fort Daniel recalled a three-story building at the north end of Spring Hollow that "housed a grist mill, a flour mill and a distillery. This building was known by two names, Johnson's Mill and the Boling Mill." Daniel stated that the large spring on the east side of the hollow was called the Boling Springs. *Marshall County Messenger* (Apr. 24, 1980): 10. Some opposed the distillery and the saloons it supplied. But misfortune occurred when Boling's son fell into a vat of boiling water. The child, Thomas Boling, died two days later. Belle Strickland recorded June 9, 1868 that, "Mr. Boling's little son fell into a tub of boiling water and is nearly if not quite dead. I have not heard anything of him today, but I hope he is better. He was scalded from his feet to his breast." The next day Belle wrote that, "Mr. Boling's little son died yesterday at eleven o'clock, and will be buried at three this afternoon. I heard afterwards that he fell into a pit or something of the sort, for his father keeps a distillery. I think that ought to be a warning to him to stop keeping one." See Appendix by Hubert H. McAlexander: "Spires Boling of Holly Springs: Carpenter, Master Builder, Architect," pp. 393-395; also *Civil War Women*, 207-208; *Southern Tapestry*, 39, 49, 69-70, 87.

There was a tolerance of drinking³ and getting drunk in the old days.⁴ I have known a favored clerk to go on a spree in the busiest season of the year; and a mother to walk the floor in agony while the family physician—no other would do—was sobering sufficiently to make a diagnosis and treat her child.

Business was organized along different lines after the War of the Sixties than now, personal contact and magnetism counted for much more than in these days of chain stores, and there were some princes of good fellows among proprietors and clerks. I will mention the personnel of some firms.⁵

Scruggs, Hull & Finley was composed of Maj. L. S. Scruggs, Brodie S. Hull, John S. Finley and James M. Crump.⁶ Some of the clerks

³ James J. Selby who kept a daily log of events in Holly Springs for many years during the mid-nineteenth century, made careful record of the deaths of citizens and the likely causes of their demise. During the sixteen years he kept records (1840-1856), he recorded 220 deaths, attributing eleven to "drink." See Selby, "Sundries Events," *Ansearchin' News: The Tennessee Genealogical Magazine* 31 (Summer 1984): 83-90; (Fall 1984): 125-32); and (Winter 1984): 183-92; the list is reproduced in Bobby Mitchell, *Cemeteries of Marshall County*, 2nd ed., Appendix C, 1-5.

⁴ Rather than flee to foreign countries, many tried to escape the reality of the South's defeat in war by resorting to alcohol or drugs. Observers from within and beyond that period often commented on the prevalence of immoderate drinking among soldiers and others, a situation federal authorities during the reconstruction period exploited for their own purposes—it was charged that the only commodity whose movement they did not restrict was whiskey. Gaines Foster also noted that Southern whites in this period had an extremely high rate of opium addiction. *Ghosts of the Confederacy*, 17-18.

⁵ Chesley Thorne Smith, of a later generation, recalled ways on the square that were still quaint: "We had no such thing as a supermarket or self-service grocery. If you did go to a grocery, a clerk waited on you. Cheese was cut from a hoop. Pickles were in a barrel as well as salt mackerel. These were dipped out by the clerk. Many items of food were bought at the back door of our house.... Things that had to come from a store were ordered by telephone. Flour was bought by the barrel. I don't know how much sugar was ordered at a time, but it was kept in the pantry in wooden hanging buckets, one for white sugar and one for brown. Crackers came in big tin boxes...." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 7-8.

⁶ James Moore Crump (1843-1906), son of William and Elizabeth Hull Crump. From 1876 to 1886 he owned the house now known as the Baird Cottage

were Dan Miller, Will Wooten and Jack Johnson.

Crump & Co., Brodie S. Crump, William Crump and R. A. McWilliams, owners; and Robert W. Fort bookkeeper, Dick Topp and Clayton Hull, clerks.

The first of these two firms was dry goods and Crump & Co., groceries; all the other five were both. Maj. Scruggs withdrew and the firm became Crump, Hull & Finley, and later Crump & Hull. Crump & Co., occupied Hamilton Harris' store, and Scruggs, Hull & Finley, Mrs. Isom Jones'.

Roberts, Anderson & Chew—W. A. Roberts, James M. Anderson¹ and R. E. Chew, owners; Thornwell Dunlap, John E. and W. H. Anderson and Bill McWilliams, clerks. They occupied the old City Barber Shop building.

J. W. Fant & Co.—I do not recall any others than Mr. Fant; but they were probably his sons, Selden and Glenn Fant, L. G. Fant was a son of Selden Fant. Sam Bonner and Bob McClain were among the clerks. Bob McClain was father of Waite McClain, now of Jackson, Tenn. They occupied the Lucas Furniture Co. store.²

I. C. Levy, Dan and Bart Oliver, Joe Lebolt and Ben Lawrence were clerks. Dan Oliver was father of Charlie and Dan Oliver. Levy's store when I first knew it occupied the Lucas Furniture Co. store, moving about 1870 to a store on the site of Davis, Mize & Co.'s store,³ and about 1879 to the present store. It is the only store of those days still in existence.⁴

which stands at the southeast corner of East Salem Avenue and North Walthall Street.

¹ In 1870, James M. Anderson bought the house at 145 North Randolph Street, known now as the Walter C. Sandusky Place. It was built in 1844 by James B. Wilson. Architectural historian Stanley Schuler says the home is "probably the most appealing house in the only Mississippi Valley town that comes close in matching the number of marvelous old houses found in Natchez." *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 87.

² The Lucas Furniture Store was at the southwest corner of Van Dorn Avenue and Market Street, in the building where the present City Café is now.

³ Davis, Mize & Co., was at the southwest corner of College Avenue and Memphis Street.

⁴ The Levy Store, founded in 1858, continued until the 1960s. It occupied several locations around the square, but in its last (and longest) location, was at

SAM FRANK'S STORE

Sam Frank owned and occupied the Levy store.⁵ Morris and Julius Bernheim, Mose Schriever and Ike Tandler were clerks. Mr. Frank sold the stock about 1877 to his clerks, who carried on under the name Bernheim, Tandler & Schriever. Tandler died in the fever of 1878 and Mr. Hexter of Abbeville came in and the firm was Hexter, Bernheim & Schriever. Shortly afterwards Mr. Hexter moved to Memphis and Bernheim & Schriever moved to Douglas Baird's store. J. B. Rosenfield operated a general store and supply business. I do not recall his clerks, except Louie Rosenfield.

Among these clerks Jack Johnson (or Jackson Johnson as he was known in St. Louis) became head of Roberts, Johnson & Rand and the International Shoe Co., and died a multi-millionaire.⁶ John E. Anderson is a banker capitalist in this city.⁷

Inflation and flush times followed the war and rents were high. The building recently vacated by the City Barber Shop, Hamilton Harris' and Mrs. Isom Jones bought \$200 a month each, and the McGowan building, \$150. Deflation had set in and the check of the fever epidemic put them all out of business in a few years, except I. C. Levy.⁸ Rents fell, Gatewood & Gray's store,

the corner of Market Street and Van Dorn Avenue, where the present Linwood's Department Store now is. The name, I. C. Levy may still be seen in the ceramic floor tiles of the entrance.

⁵ Sam Frank, a Jewish merchant, had served in the Civil War. The Franks lived in a cottage at the northwest corner of Salem Avenue and North Walthall Street, presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Baker. Captain Frank is said to have installed the first indoor heating systems in Holly Springs. *It Happened Here*, 18, 37-38.

⁶ Jackson Johnson, of Red Banks, along with his brother Oscar, and H. O. Rand, was active in local business interests as well as enterprises in St. Louis. *Southern Tapestry*, 85. The village of Red Banks is said to have produced many successful leaders—including a number of millionaires, the Johnsons, Rands, and others.

⁷ A founder of the Merchants & Farmers Bank in 1899, Anderson was one of the founders of the cotton compress, located just west of the old Mississippi Central tracks. His home, at the northeast corner of Walthall Street and Fant Avenue, is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Perry W. Breithaupt. *Southern Tapestry*, 85; see photo, p. 120.

⁸ Levy, who built the most pretentious house of the 1880s (presently the residence on the northeast

which rented for \$50 before the fever afterwards brought \$10. I have heard that the owner enjoyed a rental income from his property prior to the fever of \$6,000 a year, which was cut to \$1,500 following.

NORFLEET & SAILOR

Norfleet & Sailor¹ carried on a furniture and undertaking business. Mr. Norfleet was father of the late Frank and Cham Norfleet, wealthy citizens of Memphis, and Mr. Sailor grandfather of Percy and Raymond Anderson. I recall only one employee, Victor Stojowski, father of Frank Stojowski, a native of Poland, who did his military service there in the cavalry and carried the scar of a lance wound. He went out with the boys from here to Morgan's cavalry in the war, and they said he would go through the manual of loading during battle.

Other stores of that day I recall were Mason Bros., Hardware, Watson and George Mason, now prominent citizens of Memphis. They occupied the J. A. Miller store.

Athey & Hill, druggists, Dr. J. H. Athey, father of the late W. B. Athey, and W. R. B. Hill, who was the first white child born in Holly Springs.²

P. A. Willis, druggist.³ His son, Ed Willis, was pharmacist and a fine young man. Dr. Willis occupied half of the store and Quiggins & Buffaloe, Confectioners the other. Oliver Quiggins, father of Tom & John Quiggins, and George W. Buffaloe composed the firm. Mr. Quiggins after

corner of College Avenue and Maury Street), was also a partner in the compress. The house, originally an exuberant two-story Queen Anne or Second Empire structure, with sweeping porches and elaborate exterior millwork, was partially burned and is to-day a single-story dwelling. See information and photos in Miller-Smith, 42; *Southern Tapestry*, 85, 93.

¹ This store was on the northwest corner of the square, at the corner of Market Street and College Avenue, where Seale's Drug Store was recently located. See photo, *Southern Tapestry*, 138.

² Walter Rich Beaty Hill (1836-1881). His wife was the former Stella Craft, daughter of pioneer settlers Hugh and Elizabeth Collier Craft. See *Southern Tapestry*, 62.

³ Piatt A. Willis purchased and remodeled the house on West Chulahoma Avenue earlier owned by Governor Joseph Matthews. The home is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Ferris.

a few years went into business for himself.⁴ The two firms were in Ernest Miller's store first and then moved to the Masonic Building next to Crawford's Drug Store. Mr. Buffaloe moved to Oxford after the fever and did splendidly in business. All old timers remember Dock, his brother and clerk while in Holly Springs.

Butler's Drug Store was located in the Tyson Drug Store. Following Dr. Butler's death shortly after the fever, his widow Mrs. Mal Butler, carried on. Some of the pharmacists and clerks were Alex McCrosky,⁵ her son Jasper Butler, son-in-law, Will Compton, and E. G. Campbell now of the Pure Drug Pharmacy.⁶ Poor Compton drowned in Lumpkin's pond.

W. A. Jones and Co., composed of W. A. and Egbert R. Jones, at first, the latter withdrawing in the eighties. The late Frank Wall, Sr., was a partner for a time of Mr. Jones. They were first located in Frank Stojowski's store, then in what is part of Levy's store and last in the old City Barber Shop building. Mason Jones succeeded his father, but later went to Memphis.

⁴ Oliver J. Quiggins (1839-1902), an ex-Confederate soldier and prisoner of war, built the interesting store known in this century as Phillips Grocery, located at 541 East Van Dorn Avenue, down by the depot. Erected in 1882, the structure was once part of a thriving neighborhood of stores that grew up around the railroad. The building, which looked like architecture from the old West, was originally a saloon and railroad hotel. It had swinging doors on the north (front) and east sides. When a passenger train came in the doors to the saloon never stopped swinging until the train left. The railroader Casey Jones is said to have been among the customers. After Prohibition was instituted in 1919, the business became a grocery store. It is presently operated by Larry Davis. R. Milton Winter, *Shadow of a Mighty Rock: A Social and Cultural History of Presbyterianism in Marshall County, Mississippi* (Franklin, Tenn.: Providence House Publishers, 1997): 421-22.

⁵ Alexander McCrosky (1851-1897), lived in the impressive two-story Greek Revival cottage at 340 East College Avenue. The house was built in 1841 by R. R. McWilliams, who sold it to Jasper Jones, a local merchant. It later belonged Robert A. McWilliams (son of R. R. McWilliams). The younger McWilliams was sheriff of Marshall County. McCrosky descendants lived in the house until recent times. It is presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd McDougal.

⁶ The pharmacy operated an ice cream manufacturing plant. *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 13.

LEACH HARDWARE STORE

J. G. Leach¹ had a hardware store where E. B. Booker is, and was very successful in that and other enterprises. His was the only estate I ever knew the public to underestimate. He was the father of Mrs. Lester Fant and Miss Margaret Leach and brother of M. H. Leach.

"Little" Snider, so called to differentiate him from Herman Snider, kept a confectionery in Gatewood & Gray's, much frequented by the kids of that day. Herman Snider, who kept a bakery in the Golden Rule Store,² made fine "gangplank" ginger cakes.

"Hell's Half-Acre" extended from back of Crawley's store³ to Falconer Avenue. Several homicides occurred there and it was well named for it was often rowdy. A saloon was located on either side of the alley.

Col. Goodrich was mayor then and hid a kindly heart under a hardboiled exterior. He could be hardboiled at the proper time and sent Col. _____, a wealthy planter, to jail for being abusive in court while in his cups. "Billie" Jones, father of W. H. Jones, was town marshal, courageous and kindly. He was a small but wiry man, who would hang on like a bull terrier to the biggest tough until he landed him in jail.

LIKE DICKENS CHARACTERS

Holly Springs bristled with interesting characters, men and women. When I began to read Dickens I felt as if I had known many of his characters in the flesh. Thad Parrish might have sat to Cruikshank for Dick Swiveller, only he was a house painter instead of a clerk. I have

¹ J. G. Leach (1842-1904), owned a large Queen Anne house with circular cupola that stood where the new Steven E. Farese home was built on the northeast corner of North Maury Street and East Van Dorn Avenue. It was originally built by J. Y. Cummings, and remodeled in the Queen Anne style by J. G. Leach about 1890. The house burned about 1990.

² The Golden Rule store, long a local landmark, operated for many years by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hopkins, burned in the fire that destroyed a large part of the east side of the square in February 1951. It was rebuilt. The store was located in the building that houses the present Mark Miller Department Store. See *Southern Tapestry*, 144-47.

³ Crawley's Store stood at the northeast corner of College Avenue and Market Street.

seen him last grimed with paint, only to see him swing out of a railway coach a few days later in Jim Swinger coat and stovepipe hat, as I was putting some ladies on the train, and making a Swiveler bow in sweep, posture and poise.

'Came the Saffron Knight; leaving a trail of desolation.' This epoch in 1878 changed the life as the war had changed the old life, and was followed by even a greater relaxation of high standards. Nightlife was lurid and lasted much of the night. That would have been Kipling's turn now, and he could have learned much about women and men, not unlike his old Oriental experiences.

Ladies seldom ventured on the square at night unless there was something going on at "the Hall." Saloons were more openly operated, the front doors were dutifully locked Sunday, but open in the rear. One occupying the entire M. & F. Building operated its poker games upstairs and bar below day and night.⁴ Excursion trains of ten or twelve packed coaches were often run here from Memphis on Sundays and when the saloons were overcrowded, porters with waiters of glasses of whiskey would be sent out to peddle them on the square.

It was the extreme revulsion of taut nerves from the horrors of the epidemic that follow all great disasters. It probably accounts for much of the lawlessness and dissipation that has followed the World War. The city reacted in a few years to a better life.⁵

⁴ The M. & F. Bank occupied the southeast corner of College Avenue and Market Street, where the Marshall County Tax Assessor's office is now located. See *It Happened Here*, 88-89.

⁵ Joe Gray Taylor, a historian of Southern manners, wrote that a change in drinking patterns took place in the decades after the Civil War. By the 1870s, the almost universal use of spirits in the South (at least by men) drew to an end, and those who once frequented saloons began restricting their use of intoxicants to the privacy of their homes. *Eating, Drinking and Visiting in the South: An Informal History* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982): 45-46, 154-55.

6.

EAST SIDE OF SQUARE ONCE HEART OF TOWN.

Rents Very High There During the Early Seventies.—
No Early Christmas Shopping Then.—Some of the Old Firms.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (May 21, 1931).¹ The old "East Side" of the square as I remember it in years gone by was the heart of the town in business, politics, gossip, pleasure, and had more than its share of fist fights. Any of these might start an argument. I speak of the block from 1870 to 1882.²

A friend who had been transferred to the west side mourned his fate—"that's where all the fights started." During the day it was a busy place in busy times, and always lively in the mornings and afternoons.

There were few cash sales during the summer, most people in town and county having yearly charge accounts. Saturday was the great shopping day for out-of-town customers, white and black, from spring until fall, and stores were crowded.³

But on other weekdays there was little doing, and bosses and clerks would play checkers just off the curb. It seems shocking in this day.

While there was no official siesta then, practically everybody took one. I was clerk over there in my teens, and alone in the store one hot afternoon I was awakened from a slight doze to find a sow and pigs had penetrated almost to the rear. I was much mortified, and hoped no one would see me driving them out the front door—fortunately no one did.⁴

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² Belle Strickland recorded in her diary on Wednesday, April 22, 1868 that "There was quite a crowd collected in the square, on account of a coon fighting with several dogs." *Civil War Women*, 177.

³ See photos in Miller-Smith, 11; *Southern Tap-stry*, 114-15.

⁴ Early Holly Springs citizens kept swine within the city limits. Martha Mildred Thomson Strickland wrote to her husband William Matthew Strickland from Strickland Place on April 20, 1862 that "My sow

There was no such thing as early shopping at Christmas time, and a mad crush of business was crowded into practically a week's time.⁵

has 4 pigs. She eats all my young chickens and ate up one hen that was setting and broke up another and ate up the eggs." Two years later, Belle Strickland wrote about the animals at the Watson Place a block away: "August 2, 1864, I forgot to tell about the Yankees killing one of Eddie's pigs. Mrs. Watson had the rest put in the wood house and says that she is going to keep them up until the Yankees go away. The cow did not come up tonight and Mrs. Watson was very uneasy about her." *Civil War Women*, 14.

⁵ Allen Cabaniss has remarked that whereas the Puritans of New England "looked with suspicion upon Christmas as a 'popish' day.... Southerners generally encouraged a joyous celebration. Just so, 'gentleman farmers, in particular regarded the day more as a time of relaxation and social activity than as a religious holiday.' 'Christmas,' *The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, Charles Reagan Wilson and William Ferris, eds. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989): 680. But it goes without saying that Christmas was less occupied in those days with getting and spending. Emma Finley recorded Christmas in this way in 1858, at her family's plantation, "Woodland," east of Holly Springs: "Dec. 29th. Is it possible that I have permitted Christmas Day to pass, & have waited nearly a week before recording it? Even so. We spent Friday preparing cakes, etc. for the occasion; most of us consider ourselves too large, or old, to adhere to the 'hang up the stocking' practice—only our pet Toby prepared for Santa Claus and the next morning with many cries of delight emptied his stockings of nuts, cakes, candy, and a 'big clump of sugar.' R. Milton Winter, ed., *Our Pen Is Time: The Diary of Emma Finley* (Lafayette, Calif.: Thomas-Berryhill Press, 1999): 50. In postwar 1865, Belle Strickland recorded that Major Strickland had arrived with gifts for the family: Exotic presents were not unknown, even in these times, and if Matthew Strickland could find something unusual to give his children, he was ready to do so. Bananas, brought from Central America to New Orleans and somehow smuggled through U. S. lines, filled the bill, even though they arrived from the Crescent City a few days late. "December 30, 1865: Soon after dinner Papa brought over a box from New

Rents were high in the early '70's until the yellow fever of 1878. Crump, Hull & Finley's store now occupied by Mrs. Isom Jones, and where I clerked, and Crump & Co.'s, occupied by Hamilton Harris, brought \$100 a month each.

But rents and property went blewy with the fever and Mrs. Jones' store rented for a while in the early eighties for \$10 a month and was sold for \$1,200.

Of all the good folks who worked in these two stores, white and colored, G. C. Myers of Jackson, I, and Henry Davis, a porter, who lives here, only are left. "Heigh Ho! Henry, run down to Brannon's please, and get us a couple of sour toddies."

In antebellum days all buildings on the east side were of frame-work, I believe, except the three-story Masonic Building. The Levy Corner was occupied by a two-story hotel, and at the Merchants & Farmers Bank corner up to the Masonic building was located Jack Holland's livery stable. I do not know what mercantile establishments were on that block, other than John Hull's, which was under the Masonic Hall, I think were Crawford's Drug Store is located. Mr. Hull was the father of the late Brodie S. Hull. The whole block was destroyed in Van Dorn's raid in December, 1862.

My recollections of the east side begin with the early seventies. Capt. Sam Frank occupied the Levy Store until 1878 when he sold out to Bernheim, Tandler & Schriver—composed of Morris Bernheim and possibly his brother Julius, Ike Tandler, and Mose Schriver.

Schriver was a genial, likable soul—"Peace be unto him." Ike Tandler died in the fever, and Mr. Hexter, of Abbeville was taken in, the firm became Hexter, Bernheim & Schriver, and the store was moved to the Hamilton Harris store.

I. C. Levy, doing business at the Davis-Mize Co. corner, moved to the Frank Store and it has been the Levy Store ever since. He was public spirited both in business and social life. Some of his employees were his three nephews, Ike Mayer, Gus and Ike Lebolt, Bill Ash and Ben Lawrence. Henry Levy and Charley Oliver cut their business teeth there.

Orleans full of things. He brought a branch of bananas." *Civil War Women*, 137.

Compton & Oliver, a drug firm, occupied the store now incorporated in the Levy store. Both died of yellow fever. Dr. Compton, after serving for several years as head of the State Insane Asylum at Jackson, returned in 1878 and had begun the erection of a private sanitarium when he died.¹ Bart Oliver was uncle of Charley and Dan Oliver.

Mr. Jones, father of the later Mrs. H. S. Dancy, had a grocery store where Booker's Hardware Store is. The firm was Jones, Wright & Co. Later J. G. Leach occupied it with his hardware and tin store. M. H. Leach and Frank Ganter were the two men I remember best there. Ganter died with the fever. Mart Leach is still living here.

J. G. Leach became one of the leading businessmen of the city, president of the M. & F. Bank,² and with Albert Herr established the Holly Springs Stoneware Co.³

W. A. and Egbert R. Jones conducted a hardware store in Frank Stojowski's store, two fine, upstanding men. I believe Henry Fort, their bookkeeper, entered the Bank of Holly Springs from there, and later became its president.⁴ The late Sam H. Pryor, and W. H. Jones were with them.⁵

¹ Dr. William McCorkle Compton (1833-1878), who organized the Ku Klux Klan during Reconstruction, eventually embraced the Republican Party and left the county to become superintendent of the insane asylum in Jackson. As such, he is better remembered for his efforts on behalf of the insane, whom he believed were ill and should be treated. A native of Kentucky, he was a graduate of Jefferson Medical College. He was instrumental in the establishment of the State Board of Health. *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi*, 2 vols. (Chicago: Goodspeed, 1891), 2:265-66. Besides Compton, others from Marshall County appointed to the State Board of Health have included, Dr. F. W. Dancy (1877), Dr. W. F. Hyer (1880), Dr. Chesley Daniel (1888), and Dr. Ira B. Seale (1923).

² See photo in *Southern Tapestry*, 115.

³ Albert Herr, who lived in a one-story gabled residence built by Robert Hebdon, a brickmaker, about 1850, at the southeast corner of East College Avenue and Chesterman Street, was a potter and merchant, who came from Germany. His descendants lived in the house until recent years.

⁴ See photo in *Southern Tapestry*, 115.

⁵ The Bank of Holly Springs, established in 1869, and now Mississippi's oldest state bank, still does business at its original location on the west side of the square. The historic bank is known for the story of the

Bob Chandler had a furniture store over W. A. Jones & Co.'s. He moved to Okolona and his son Walter is a leading banker and capitalist there.

Alex Boggiano and John B. Lagomarsino of Memphis opened a restaurant in the store after the fever of 1879 and "mopped up," a second hand pool table took in \$600 the first month. It was a great place for the youth of that day. Mr. Lagomarsino is now a capitalist in Sheffield, Ala.

ingenious disposal of a very heavy (16,000 lbs.) Corliss safe. As James Fort Daniel recounted the tale, "The safe was mounted on a square platform which was on rollers. The safe was shipped on a flat car to Holly Springs from Canton, Ohio. It was loaded on a heavy log wagon which was drawn by oxen, frequently the wheels would mire in soft places and had to be dug out. The last time this occurred it was in a sand pocket which was in front of the building formerly occupied by the First State Bank [now the Hurdle-Burch Realty Co.]. This trip to the bank took about a week. The safe was first placed in the lobby of the bank facing the working space. A concrete foundation was built in front of the old vault and the safe was rolled black and placed on this foundation. The locking mechanism began to fail after a long number of years. Fearing a lock out we discontinued the use of the safe.... The next problem which arose was how to dispose of the safe. This was being discussed one day in the bank. The late E. B. Booker [stepfather of Chesley T. Smith] was present and he suggested the safe be buried. His suggestion was carried out. The late Lloyd Betts had built and was installing a new set of fixtures in the bank. He agreed to take charge of the burial of the safe. At that time we opened the bank at 8:00 a.m. and closed at 4:00 p.m. Lloyd removed the flooring in front of the safe. Floor joists were removed. He made very careful measurements of the safe and jotted them down. He next made a careful measurement of the hole, in order to have the hole wide enough, long enough, and deep enough, so there was no chance for the safe to hang as it went down. The boys began digging and the soil was hard red clay about like concrete. No sand was encountered. At intervals Lloyd would inspect the walls of the hole to see if they were kept straight. As the dirt accumulated it was rolled out on the street. About 4:00 a.m. the hole was completed. We deposited some Memphis newspapers, Holly Springs newspapers and *Wall Street Journal* and several varieties of bank stationery. Then the safe was locked and pushed over into the hole face down. When it hit bottom the entire building shook. The floor joists were relayed and the flooring replaced. We were ready for business at 8:00 a.m. Mr. Betts had done an excellent job." *Marshall County Messenger Pilgrimage Issue* (April 1980).

Scruggs, Hull & Finley (later Crump, Hull & Finley), dry goods, (now Mrs. Isom Jones) and Crump & Co., groceries (H. A. Harris'), stand out in my memory of the old east side. The stores were the center of things then, and the proprietors were outstanding men.

The first firm was composed of Lewis S. Scruggs, James M. Crump (father of Dabney H. Crump of Memphis) Brodie S. Hull and John S. Finley. Some men who worked for them were G. C. Myers, later Supreme Court clerk, Jack Johnson, who later became president of the International Shoe Co., in St. Louis, Dan Miller, Will Wooten, Jim Fort and Andrew Burns. Will Wooten died of the fever. Dan Miller became sheriff and capitalist.

Crump & Co. was composed of Brodie S. Crump (who was also president of the Bank of Holly Springs), William Crump and R. A. McWilliams. Some of their men were Robert W. Fort, Clayton Hull, and Dick Topp, the later working for Crump & Hull later. The two Crumps and Bob Fort died in the fever. Bob McWilliams later served several terms as sheriff.

Mr. Boling¹ had a gallon house in the Crawford Drug Store,² and later Clay Nuttall, a restaurant.

Next door north were Dr. P. A. Willis and son Ed, druggists, in one half of the store, and G. W. Buffaloe, confectionery in the other. The confectionery with Dock Buffaloe on the job was a great resort for young folks in pre-fever days. Ed Willis, a fine young man, died in the fever; Mr. Buffaloe moved to Oxford in 1879 and did a flourishing business and is living there now.

Roberts, Anderson & Chew occupied the building north of Masonic Hall, and was composed of W. A. Roberts, James M. Anderson and R. E. Chew. They had a fine bunch of men as I recall, Thornwell Dunlap, John E. and W. H. Anderson and Bill McWilliams.

John E. Anderson, after having served as president of M. & F. Bank, among other activities, lives here as a retired capitalist. He and Henry Anderson, who now lives in Thonoto-

¹ Spires Boling. See Appendix, pp. 395-97.

² Located in the Masonic Building.

sassa, Fla., alone survive. W. A. Roberts was father of Mrs. Ella Roberts Randle.¹

Herman Snider, Sr., had a bakery and grocery in the present Golden Rule Store. The memory of his "gangplank" gingerbread lingers.

"Hatter" Mayers made hats here before the war, stove pipes and all, but kept a grocery in my time on the site of the Calame store. He was quite a character.

The M. & F. Bank building was called *The Reporter* building until 1876, when the paper was moved opposite the City Hall. The paper did not own it, but occupied the present telephone exchange rooms. There was my first work, as printer's devil from June '74 to June '75. Col. John Calhoon owned it and W. J. L. Holland was associated with him. The "force" then were Bill Barry, Will West, Ben Cooper, Henry Falconer, Will Nabors and myself. Will Holland was president of relief work in the yellow fever and died of it. The monument of the Mississippi Press Association to its dead stands at his grave in Hill Crest.

Howard and Kinloch Falconer had law offices in the front rooms, both died in the fever. Kinloch was Secretary of State at his death.²

Wesley Marrett had the lower floor for a saloon, a sort of first aid to the thirsty on the block. He also died of the fever. Billie Brannon and John Bobbitt succeeded him.

¹ They lived in the house on East College Avenue now known as "Grey Gables." Roberts Avenue, which runs between Randolph and Walthall Streets is named for his family, whose residence still stands on the northeast corner of Randolph and Roberts.

² Howard and Kinloch Falconer were brothers—sons of Judge Thomas A. Falconer—all unusually devoted to one another, as one contemporary remembered them. The sons gave selflessly of their energy during the yellow fever epidemic, and paid for their kindness with their lives. Falconer Avenue in Holly Springs honors the memory of this interesting family. Howard Falconer was part owner with A. M. West and T. J. Malone of a firm that manufactured wagons and buggies. See Hamilton, 102-103; *It Happened Here*, 83-85; *Southern Tapestry*, 17, 29, 62, 63, 99.

7.

MR. JOHN M. MICKLE REVIEWS HOTEL HISTORY OF HOLLY SPRINGS.

Veteran Newspaper Man Makes Interesting Contribution to Local History.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (December 7, 1939). The distressing fire which destroyed the Traveler's Inn¹ Wednesday morning, November 29, shortly after midnight, resulting in the death of Harry P. Reid of Holly Springs and injury to Mrs. E. E. Nichols of Flint, Oklahoma and T. V. Ross of Winona, recalls hotel history extending back of the War of the 60's.

Just prior to the War, Holly Springs had reached the zenith of its glory. It did not have the population of a few of the cities in Mississippi, but was a close second to any in up-to-date (for that time) enterprises.

It lacked a suitable hotel and to get one the Mayor and Board of Aldermen granted Bradley & Co. the sole right to retail liquor for a period of ten years if they would build and operate in first class manner such a hotel. It occupied the block on the north side of the square, except the site of the First State Bank.

Boy what a gold mine! There are sixty or more drinks to the gallon and good whiskey could be bought retail at 50 cents a gallon. Holly Springs had twice the population as at present, mostly white. Marshall County was chuck-full of rich planters old and young who drank more or less, often more.²

¹ This hotel was located at the southwest corner of Memphis Street and Falconer Avenue.

² In later years, when the temperance sentiment had caught hold of the churchgoing populace, Mary Virginia Grigsby Foley, whose father was the Presbyterian minister in Holly Springs from 1897 to 1904, recalled that "one time when her mother was ill, Mr. [Eagleton M.] Smith (1854-1937), a church member and friend who lived across the street in "Linden Lodge," the present Bert Bonds house, at the southwest corner of Craft Street and Chulahoma Avenue, sent a quart of whiskey for Mrs. Grigsby as a medicine and tonic. "Since Mama did not approve of hard liquor it was placed in a camphor bottle and thus administered to her." Smith's wife was Mrs. Lucy Deaderick

The Magnolia Hotel was undoubtedly the finest and most imposing hotel Holly Springs ever had, three stories high, built of brick, with large display of iron grill work; so popular at the time. It had the original Edwards House at Jackson "skinned to the block."

It housed during his military visit here in the early part of the War of the 60s, Major-General Breckenridge of Kentucky and of the Confederate Army. It was one of the anomalies of the border states that he had a brother who was a Major-General in the Federal Army.

But alas and alack! And alack some more! The hotel was destroyed by fire, during Van Dorn's raid, I believe. It was not rebuilt, and Jim House bought the brick.

From them was constructed shortly after the War the Schuyler House, the original part of the Travelers' Inn. Mr. Schuyler was from the North and operated the hotel for several years.

B. G. Lawrence (uncle of the late Ben Lawrence) operated it during the mid-seventies, and was there when the Yellow Fever came in 1878. Mayor A. W. Goodrich lived in a one-room house opposite the present City Hall,³ and when W. J. L. Holland gave up his two-bedroom apartment to two men from Grenada,⁴ Mayor Good-

Lyon, daughter of the Rev. Dr. James A. Lyon, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Oxford and professor of moral philosophy in the University of Mississippi. *Memories of Childhood in Holly Springs* (Medford, Ore.: privately published, 1981): 44-45; see photo, *Southern Tapestry*, 95.

³ This house stood on the east side of Memphis Street in the middle of the block between Van Dorn and Gholson Avenues, where the present McClatchy Hardware Store machine shop now stands.

⁴ This structure, still known as the "Yellow Fever House," was built around 1836 and still stands at the northeast corner of Memphis Street and Gholson Avenue. It is presently the office of the Holly Springs

rich got scared and moved to the Lawrence House and a few days later developed an attack of the fever and died Saturday, August 31. In ordinary times it would have been considered indecent to have the funeral the same day as the death, but the Mayor was buried a few hours later. He had a big funeral, though the epidemic was on.

Mose Schriver, I think, followed Mr. Lawrence with the Schriver House, and Mr. Tidwell succeeded him with the Tidwell House; and he in turn by Mr. Hancock with the Hancock Hotel.

The most substantial thing about the hotel was a brick fire wall between it and the livery stable on the site of the present Holly Springs Auto Company.¹ Twice the stable burned, with big, hot fires without damage to the hotel.

After the last fire Mr. Hancock moved to Texas, Jim "Buck" Jones bought it and made considerable improvements. He built the west wing and an additional brick-veneer front.

The late L. A. Rather bought it from Mr. Jones in 1925 and after further improvements rented it to Mrs. Dennison of Oxford, who named it The Travelers' Inn, under which name it has continued.²

After several years, Mrs. Dennison, who owned a hotel in Oxford, let her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Franklin, take it and returned to Oxford. Being in ill health Mrs. Franklin sub-leased it to Mrs. Lillian Stille and Mrs. Walter C. Robison in 1938.

Tourism and Recreation Authority. See information and photos in Elmo Howell, *Mississippi Back Roads: Notes on Literature and History* (Memphis: Langford & Associates, 1998): 129-31; *It happened Here*, 77-82; Miller-Smith, 41.

¹ The auto company was located just north of the 1925 post office on Memphis Street.

² In 1890, Lytle Alexander Rather (1859-1930), built the Queen Anne house at 145 West Gholson Avenue that is to-day called "Rutledge," presently the home of Tim and Lisa Liddy.

8.

HOTEL ARRIVALS HERE FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

Old Register of the Lawrence House, from 1876 to 1878,
Reveals Cross Section of Life in this Vicinity during those Days.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (June 4, 1931). John Jowers of Slayden has kindly loaned me through John T. Wade an old register of the Lawrence House.¹

Squire B. G. Lawrence was not bred to the hotel business, but took it up after coming here from Mt. Pleasant. He was uncle of the late Ben Lawrence and I believe returned to Mt. Pleasant to end his days.

The first date is Saturday, January 1, 1876, and the first entry is Frank W. Ganter, Glasgow, Ky. The last date was Thursday, January 3, 1878—the fateful year of the yellow fever. No guests were registered that day but only this entry: "Snowing in torrents." Footnotes like this occur along and I shall quote a few.

A new register was doubtless opened and contained the entry in August of Col. A. W. Goodrich, mayor, who moved to the hotel when refugees here developed the fever. He died August 31—the first citizen victim.

A review of the register gives a cross-section of life in Holly Springs and Marshall County of that day. Frank Ganter, the first to register, worked for J. G. Leach, and was a member of the excellent band of that time. He was an early victim of the fever, dying in his room over the Leach store—now E. B. Booker.²

Sims E. or Z. Chalmers of Byhalia; M. Franklin of Early Grove and John E. Morgan of Cornersville, prominent in the county, were registered guests.

NO RESTAURANT THEN

There was no café or restaurant here at that time, and people went to the hotels, of which there were two, the Nuttall House (in the J. A. Miller building) being the other. So to the Lawrence repaired three inseparables, John W. Houston, Carey Fant and Fult Smith. Houston had lived here while in school at Chalmers Institute, but was then living on his farm near Red Banks. He was the father of Blair Houston.

Col. John Mitchell, a most popular grocery drummer from Memphis, registered at intervals. He was reported to draw \$4,000 a year, some salary then, not bad now.

The footnote for Sunday, March 19, 1876, records "snow 15 inches deep, and still falling"—the biggest snow of all time hereabouts.

Local people sometimes grew facetious in registering, thus: L. A. Cohen was U. S. Senator, Washington, and Ben Hier, chief cook and bottle washer. Ben was a sunny fellow, lives now in Minneapolis.

Footnote—March 26, 1876, "a light shower of snow."³

³ "Old Timers" and advocates of global warming maintain that there was more snow in days gone by. But the real record-snows seem to have come a generation before Mr. Mickle. James J. Selby, who recorded events in Holly Springs 1839-56, described winter conditions this way: Jan. 17, 1841: "A very cold day with Snow"; Jan. 26, 1844: "The first snow this year"; Mar. 30, 1845: "The Second Snow"; Nov. 29, 1845: "A heavy snow and very extreme cold weather"; Feb. 8, 1846: "The Second Snow this Winter"; Feb. 18, 1846: "The Third snow this winter"; Feb. 21, 1846: "The Fourth Snow this winter"; Dec. 1, 1848: "A very rainy day and the first snow"; Dec. 10, 1849: "The first snow"; Dec. 4, 1850: "The first Snow, and a very great Sleet, tremendous Cold Weather".

¹ The Lawrence House stood at the southwest corner of Memphis Street and Falconer Avenue.

² The present Booker Hardware Co.

Dr. R. N. Lawrence was a dentist with offices in the McGowan building. M. J. Phillips of Chulahoma, Wm. S. McElroy of Mt. Pleasant, Hannibal Echols, of Wall Hill and S. T. Power of Red Banks were prominent county men.

GUEST FROM BEDAZZLE

Mrs. Fannie Ware of Bedazzle, was a guest. I believe Bethlehem was first called Bedazzle.¹

Ed Smith, good fellow with a silvery tenor voice, a member of Christ Church choir in its palmiest days.² He was the uncle of L. A. Smith, Sr.

John Falkner of Marianna, Phil T. Raiford of Red Banks or Victoria, J. D. Balfour of Waterford were guests. Balfour later moved to Lamar, where his sons are now in business.

J. C. and Oscar Johnston, editors of *The South*, were often guests, or sent printers—"tourists," doubtless—for meals. Both became prominent citizens of Friars Point. J. C. was state auditor for awhile.³

Peter Mitchell of Memphis. The Mitchell boys were frequent visitors to Mrs. Ann Martin's. Andrew was a great amateur ball player.

James J. Selby, "Sundries Events," *Ansearchin' News: The Tennessee Genealogical Magazine* 31 (Summer 1984): 85; (Fall 1984): 125, 129; (Winter 1984): 183-85.

¹ Bethlehem, a community in the southeast corner of the county, took its name from a Methodist Church in the neighborhood.

² Chorus choirs became fashionable in churches in the nineteenth century, and provision was made for their singing at Christ Church and the Presbyterian. About 1890, a loft for singers was made behind the pulpit of the Methodist Church. Holly Springs, which has added a music room to its Female Institute in July 1836, enjoyed the services of music teachers from the earliest period, and after the 1890s the North Mississippi Presbyterian College had a music department, with instruction given in voice, piano, organ, and stringed instruments. Mickle, an Episcopalian, makes frequent reference to the excellence of his congregation's singers and musicians.

³ These brothers should not be confused with their contemporaries, Jackson and Oscar Johnson, of Red Banks, who later made their fortunes in St. Louis. The Johnstons became cotton planters in the Delta, and were highly influential in its affairs.

C. C. Stephenson, a wealthy landowner of near Chulahoma, was grandfather of C. C. Stephenson, Sr.⁴

Demps E. Brittenum inherited, I believe, the large Puryear, or Finley, farm on Coldwater Creek from his sister, Mrs. Puryear. He was a volunteer worker in the yellow fever, and later married the beautiful Gussie Davis of the Mack neighborhood.⁵

Jim Toney of Cornersville—Memphis—we all knew Jim. Arthur Munnew of Memphis, who tuned pianos through here for years.

THE CHARLESTON POSTMASTER

Capt. William Hargues, of Victoria—Holly Springs. He was postmaster at Charleston, Miss., then a town of a thousand negroes and native whites. He told me it was the best town he ever lived in, "not a foreigner in it." The foreign frontier with him began at the Ohio River, though he was a Republican in politics.

J. Alfred Miller, a rising young merchant at Laws Hill.⁶ Capt. John McGowan, who then owned what is now known as the H. Myers-Warren Swindoll farm⁷ on the Tallahatchie River, had his brother Capt. Bob to lunch with him.

James M. Greer, W. T. Fore and W. L. Anderson, are registered August 13, 1876, from Memphis, whether singly or in a bunch I do not know; but what "pesters" me is how come Judge Greer starting anywhere on the 13th.

Walter Roberts, Irwin McGowan,⁸ David McDowell and Henry Smith, city, were registered at intervals.

⁴ See *Southern Tapestry*, 132.

⁵ A small farming community located five miles northwest of Holly Springs, centered around the home of Major J. P. M. Stephenson. On February 15, 1894, a post office was established in the store of the McAlexander family and was called Mack. The office was discontinued in 1909. See information and photos in Miller-Smith, 54 and *Southern Tapestry*, 48, 56.

⁶ Laws Hill is located about eighteen miles southwest of Holly Springs.

⁷ Now known as the Callicutt Place.

⁸ The McGowans had a farm out from Waterford, and in 1880, Irwin McGowan married Miss Anna Roberts. The couple made their home with her parents in the house known to-day as "Grey Gables."

James Fentress of Bolivar, Tenn., who I think was later general counsel in Chicago for the I. C. R. R. system, was a guest.¹

GLENN FANT AND SAM BONNER

Glenn Fant and Sam Bonner, two of nature's noblemen who gave their lives in the yellow fever. Fant was uncle of L. G. Fant and Bonner a brother of "Sherwood Bonner" McDowell, the noted authoress.

After recording that the Berger Family (who were Swiss Bell Ringers and musicians) show tonight, October 13, 1877, the clerk grows poetical: "Luna soars aloft in the blue vault; the weather is cool and pleasant, everything is lovely and the goose hangs high."

Festivities crowded each other the night of Thursday, December 26, 1877, for the clerk records—reception at Col. Lucas', dance at Shaw's, masquerade at Col. Walter's.

Squire and Ben Lawrence were from East Tennessee, where native Union and Southern sympathizers carried on a war of their own during the Civil War. Ben Lawrence's father was killed by the former.

¹ The village of Fentress, east of Ackerman, Mississippi, was named in his honor.

9.

BUTLER'S DRUG STORE WAS THE TOWN CLUB.

Unique and Outstanding as a Gathering Place for Holly Springs Citizens
Many Years Ago—Located on Site of Present Tyson Drug Store.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (February 18, 1932).¹ Man was a much more social animal from twenty-five years ago back than now, and I believe that the present generation could probably exchange some of the synthetic camaraderie of herd interest for some of the really true comradeship of the past.

This comradeship found expression in gatherings at certain stores. It showed its last flare during the time Tom Kelley was connected with the Tyson Drug Store, and died with him.

Thomas Horace Kelley, or "Tom" as he was known, harked back enough to old days and yet possessed the happy touch with all sorts and conditions of men, from babies up. In Tom Kelley's death, the town lost a good asset.

Each of these "clubs," I might term them, drew as a rule a certain type, but Butler's Drug Store or Butler's Corner, as it was generally called, was unique and outstanding.

It was located in the present Tyson Drug Store building, and was the club of the town—most everybody of every walk of life, drifted in there more or less.

The drug store was founded soon after the war by Dr. J. F. Butler, who had previous to the war practiced medicine in Helena, Ark., I believe, and married a Holly Springs lady.² The diary for 1858 kept by the late Miss Emma Finley, which furnished matter for a story some months ago, had an item about the marriage of "Mal Burton and Dr. Butler of Arkansas."³

Dr. Butler died not long after the fever and his widow carried on the business.

"Sat. June 11th. Home again from Mal's wedding! How handsomely she was dressed! How fine-looking the groom notwithstanding his very long whiskers & moustache,- the lower part of his face I cannot answer for either since it was completely hidden... Determined on seeing the ceremony performed we commenced preparing before sundown, 8 1/2 being the hour in the invitation. We found only a few at Mrs. Burton's on our arrival but they poured in so rapidly that soon my little space was uncomfortably decreased. In order, I suppose, that all might witness it, the ceremony was not performed until nearly ten, when there was a commotion about the door, when Mrs. Burton entered leaning on John's arm, then the waiters- Winnie Lea, Rowena Knox, Pidge Arthur & Bettie Govan, Messrs. Clopton, Govan & the Arkansas gents- I do not know their names. Mal looked more serious than I expected. Poor John Smith! He could not wait to see it, but left a few days before for N. Y. Mr. Paine, on concluding made Mal a present of a beautifully bound book- in damask- 'Hints for Young Married People'- He has some more of the same sort, & it will be quite an inducement for him to marry you,- after congratulations & dancing a while supper was announced. How the folks, all, did eat & enjoy,—the coffee was good, chicken salad, excellent, ice cream, cakes, jellies & all so delicious, that I would run through my vocabulary complimentary long before I finished the eatable list. Mrs. Burton was quite sick,- scarcely able to be up." *Our Pen Is Time*, 89, 90. Malvina Burton Butler was the great-grandmother of Hugh H. and Edward Rather. The Burton house, erected about 1848 by Mary Malvina Shields Burton, recently divorced from her physician husband, is reminiscent of those in Rockbridge County, Virginia, where she had been born. Now called "Fleur de Lys," at 248 S. Memphis St., it was for many years the home of Mrs. Burton's granddaughter, Mrs. Robert Tyson. It is presently the home of Ms Marjorie Harriet Tyson and is one of the few houses in Holly Springs to preserve most of its original extensive grounds and dependencies. *Southern Tapestry*, 33. For another account of a grand wedding in Marshall County during this period, see *Southern Tapestry*, 45; and photo, p. 32.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 15, 1932).

² Medicine of various kinds were sold by physicians who had offices and drug stores on the square. Most contained copious amounts of alcohol.

³ In 1859, Butler had married Miss Malvina Burton in a ceremony described in detail by Emma Finley:

GOOD FELLOWS WITH STORE

Some good fellows were connected with Butler's Drug Store.¹ Aleck McCrosky was there for two different periods, and I believe learned the business there; as did Gus Smith, who fell an early victim of the fever in 1878. He was father of L. A. Smith, Sr.²

A pleasant little Quaker from Philadelphia, whose name I don't recall, was pharmacist for some time. Later William Compton was pharmacist and Jasper F. Butler, a salesman, and I believe later a pharmacist, son-in-law and son of Mrs. Butler, were there in the heyday of its popularity—Will and Jap as they were known. Poor Will was accidentally drowned in Lumpkin's Pond in 1889.³

Ed. G. Campbell, proprietor of the Pure Drug Pharmacy, came here from Memphis and was the last of the pharmacists there. He arranged the sale of the stock a few years later to S. R. Crawford, who was moving here with his wife from Arkansas. Mr. Campbell then went the Athey's Drug Store.

Mrs. Butler was a Democrat and her brother, Dr. John S. Burton, a Republican, and their political spats were always interesting.

The telegraph office was just back of the building and on election nights and like events the crowd would gather there and flow over to the drug store side entrance to listen while Lang

¹ L. A. Rather, Sr., worked for Dr. Butler. At night he stayed at the store and issued out medicine for the sick. He contracted yellow fever, from which he recovered. After the fever of 1878, Rather still worked for Dr. Butler, and in the early eighties started to clerk for W. H. Athey, finally forming a partnership, and about 1887, buying the entire business. *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 42.

² The L. A. Smiths lived in a large Queen Anne house that still stands at 310 East Salem Avenue, next to the house which had been his grandfather West's place. The house—a fine example of the popular Queen Anne style—of which several were built in Holly Springs, is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. John R. Ward. Judge Smith served on the state supreme court, as did his son, L. A. Smith Jr. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 55-56.

³ Jasper F. Butler lived in a house, dating back to 1838, known as "Suaveatooky,"—an Indian word for "watering place." It was built for Sanders Taylor, a very influential early citizen. Butler acquired the place after the Civil War.

Mosby, or for a while, Jim Hunter, caught the news and passed it on.

It was a many-sided throng that met at the drug store; and politics, local gossip, all of the town topics and country affairs were thrashed out. Practically all of the dances and balls originated there.⁴

DR. HYER PROMINENT HERE

Dr. W. F. Hyer moved here from near Hudsonville in the early eighties and had his office over the roof of the drug store. His fast friend, but political enemy, Edward H. Crump, who lived just across the road in the country, had brought his two brothers, Brodie and William, early victims of the yellow fever, to his home and Dr. Hyer attended them, as well as Mr. Crump, who was stricken and died not long afterward.

After the death of the Crump brothers, Dr. Hyer drove daily to Holly Springs to minister to fever patients here.

⁴Mr. Mickle, an Episcopalian, did not share the aversion to dancing that characterized many church people of an earlier day. Well known, for example, is the tale of Colonel H. W. Walter's expulsion from the local Presbyterian congregation in 1844 for having attended a ball. *See It Happened Here*, 16-18; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 88-96. Edward McDowell, of Holly Springs, living in Galveston, Tex., wrote Cora Watson May 29, 1868, that "I was quite taken by surprise when I read...of the fact that there had been a Masquerade Ball in H. S....But of course you wouldn't have gone because you are so-so-pious! I don't think that young people whose families are of the persuasion which do not sanction such indulgences, ought to become 'religious' until they are of a certain age (which, you know, means about 30). But of course we differ widely on this point." Cora Carey Letters, Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Holly Springs was famous for its parties, and even the children of Presbyterian elders enjoyed their merriment. The clergy continued to preach against dancing, but there was little they could do to stem the tide. Thus Emma Finley recorded in her diary that on a Sunday in June 1859, the Rev. Mr. Paine, minister of the Presbyterian Church, had given a particular twist to Christ's words in Matthew 7:13-14. She wrote that "They tell us that Mr. Paine discoursed last Sunday on dancing to the wide gate & broad way- but not having heard the sermon I cannot discuss it. Our town has been very gay and there may have been danger of running into excess." *Our Pen Is Time*, 93-94.

He was a prominent figure around Butler's Corner until he moved to Meridian in 1888. He was a good writer and speaker as well as physician and wrote political editorials for me when I owned *The Reporter*, and they were widely copied over the state.¹

Dr. B. F. McKie, another beloved physician, took over the offices after Dr. Hyer left. He had the cream of the practice here until his health failed. He was very popular and had almost an uncanny success in the practice of medicine. He stood by the town from start to finish in the yellow fever.

These two physicians added much to the life and interest of Butler's Corner. The medical fraternity seemed partial to the neighborhood.

Dr. Chesley Daniel² and Dr. R. H. Peel had offices respectively in what are now Dr. Henry's office³ and *The South Reporter* building. Both were the types of men and physicians, each had a loyal clientele of patients.

The corner office of Dr. Henry's has been a doctor's office since way before the war. Dr. Caruthers, a noted antebellum physician, had it

¹ Dr. W. F. Hyer (1839-1897), a native of Tennessee, was appointed surgeon of the Second Mississippi under General Alcorn. After the war he settled near Hudsonville, then moved to Holly Springs in 1883. He was the first county health officer (1878-1880). In 1872-1873, he represented Marshall County in the legislature, and was elected to the state senate, serving 1882-1884. While in the Senate he was largely instrumental in the passage of the medical practice act. He was president of the State Board of Health in 1888 and 1889. Other county health officers were Dr. A. M. West (1880-1884), Dr. Chesey Daniel (1884-1890, 1893-1901), Dr. S. C. Gholson (1890-1893), Dr. R. A. Seale (1901-1909), Dr. W. C. Elliott (1909-1915), Dr. Ira B. Seale (1915-1921, 1927-1936), Dr. A. M. McAuley (1921-1925), and Dr. L. A. Barnett (1925-1927).

² Dr. Chesley Daniel (1849-1914) was one of the faithful doctors during the yellow fever epidemic. He attended the University of Louisville Medical School in Kentucky and Tulane in New Orleans, from which he received his medical degree. See photo, Miller-Smith, 84; *Southern Tapestry*, 80. He and his family originally owned a home where the present Dollar General Store stands next to Carlisle's Big Star Grocery. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 35-36.

³ See photo in Miller-Smith, 110. *The South Reporter* at that time occupied the building at 154 South Market Street, which is presently the law office of Collier C. Carlton Esq.

built, I believe, and occupied it.⁴ His son-in-law Dr. S. C. Gholson,⁵ father of Dr. Norman Gholson, had his office there, as did another son, Dr. Sam C. Gholson.

⁴ Dr. Samuel Oliver Caruthers (1801-1862) and Mrs. Andalusia Caruthers (1813-1878), natives of Lexington, Virginia, came to Holly Springs early in its history. Dr. Caruthers was one of the town's first physicians. Their two-story clapboard house stood at the northeast corner of East Gholson Avenue and Market Street. Their daughter Mary Hannah Caruthers (1834-1929), married Dr. Samuel Creed Gholson. The historic home, where Sam Houston (Dr. Caruthers' first cousin) was entertained, was torn down several years ago for a parking lot. Robert Lowry and William H. McCardle, *A History of Mississippi* (Jackson: R. H. Henry, 1891): 544; see information and photos in *It Happened Here*, 22; Miller-Smith, 42; and *Southern Tapestry*, 62, 156, 160.

⁵ Samuel Creed Gholson, M.D. (1828-1910), born in Farmville, Va., moved to Holly Springs in 1846. Uncle of novelist Ellen Glasgow and a graduate of Medical College of Virginia, he spent two years in post-graduate study in Paris. Having received a grim prognosis from a specialist, he was advised to take a long journey on horseback through the South. Stopping in Holly Springs, he fell in love with the daughter of Dr. S. O. Caruthers, and to them were born eight children. Mary Caruthers was a devoted housekeeper, justly famous for her bountiful repasts. A man of firm opinions—he opposed both slavery and capital punishment, he was surgeon of his regiment during the Civil War. Lowry & McCardle, 544; Hamilton, 105; *Southern Tapestry*, 62.

10.

WHEN GAS WAS USED HOLLY SPRINGS HAD IT.

In Ante-Bellum Days Installation of Gas Works Was a Great Achievement in This City—Never a Paying Proposition.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (March 12, 1931).¹ The installation of gas works was a big feather in the cap of Holly Springs in antebellum days.²

Looking back from these days when almost every village and many farmhouses are provided with "juice," the pride of our forefathers in this enterprise seems pathetically childish.

But it was evidence then that Holly Springs was on the map in the forefront of Mississippi's modern, up-to-the-minute cities. Only a few such towns as Jackson, Natchez, Vicksburg, and Columbus had gas then.³

As further evidence of its progressive spirit, Holly Springs had a handsome three-story brick hotel—which would do credit to any town of its size today, with a few modern trimmings—and a good theater.

The old minute book of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen shows little record of preliminary negotiations, but shows in its minutes of August 7, 1860, that Messrs. Craft and McGowan were appointed a committee to locate the ten lamp posts and they recommended that two additional lamp posts be bought, one for the Market House, which stood on the site of the old

power house,⁴ and the other in front of the mayor's office.⁵

Gas posts cost the city \$22 each, and \$12 a year for lighting and extinguishing. Meter rate for gas was \$6.50 per thousand.

I do not know whether it was the late Maj. Addison Craft or his father, Hugh Craft, but I feel sure the other committeeman was Robert McGowan, who lived in the S. R. Crawford house on Salem Avenue.⁶

I found no record where the other ten posts were located, though I had some curiosity to know. The number had grown to perhaps twenty-five in my day, but even so, many people carried lanterns.⁷

The franchise was granted at the same meeting to Tremby Pardin & Co., to build and operate the gas works, and the city agreed to sell them a plat of ground from the public domain, and they were located in Spring Hollow on what would be Falconer Avenue if it intersected the hollow.⁸

¹ Now the Holly Springs police station.

² Chesley Thorne Smith recalled how her mother would say how she loved to watch the lamp lighter go around lighting the gas street lights in the evening. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 94. See photos in Miller-Smith, 111.

³ To-day's "Montrose."

⁴ The fixtures at the top of these posts were serviced by a horse drawn cart with an extra high frame that was used in servicing the lights. James J. House, liveryman, had a contract for this work. *Marshall County Messenger* (April 24, 1980).

⁵ Even in the stern days of the Civil War, all was not labor and sorrow. Toys were few during this time, but Buddie Strickland and Eddie Watson found ways to amuse themselves with blowguns. Belle Strickland recorded in her diary, September 3, 1864, of his her brother and his friend that "Buddie and Eddie are very much taken with blow-guns. They make them out of

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² The Holly Springs Presbyterian Church was one of the first to be piped for interior gas lighting, and gas jets to which light fixtures were attached may still be seen throughout. One of the original gasoliers (now electrified) is preserved. *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 217.

³ Gas lights were first used in New York City in the 1820s. Holly Springs was one of only a few Southern towns of its size to be piped for gas at such an early date. The city did not obtain natural gas until after World War II.

I do not know what became of Trembly Par-din & Co., my earliest recollection of operators was a local firm of which the late Reuben Elias Taylor was a member. John Taylor of Potts Camp is his son, and they lived in the seventies at the McDowell Place.¹

Johnnie Garrell, or "Johnnie Gas" as most people knew him, had charge and did the plumbing. Gas was made from coal until the last few years when it was changed to water gas.²

I doubt if it was ever profitable, and it changed hands several times. Sam Patton took a try at it. He was a many-sided genius, and came here from Summit, Miss., in the winter of 1878 as assistant publisher of *The South*, with the late Col. F. A. Tyler.

He took up architecture and went to Chattanooga when the Richardsons were putting in a lot of money there, and left many fine structures there as monuments of his skill. He lost his life in the Richardson block fire. Christ Church rectory was his first effort in architecture.³

Then Herman Snider bought the works and had trouble for almost the rest of his life, with worn equipment and people disputing bills.

It seemed as if fate had given the *coup de grace*; for when the Water & Light plant was being constructed, about 1898, the reservoir blew up. Green Lucas, a negro, and quite a character too, was working on a leak in the feed pipe to the reservoir, and, of all things, smoking, when—blew-y! He wasn't hurt, however, but scared—Oh Boy!⁴

small gas pipes and blow mud in them." *Civil War Women*, 45.

¹ This house has been torn away. It stood on the South side of Salem Avenue, between "Montrose" and "Airliewood," in the space now occupied by the Holly Springs Garden Club Arboretum.

² James Fort Daniel later recalled that "naptha" gas was used. *Remembrance of Things Past* (privately published, [c. 1970]).

³ Samuel Manning Patton was a member of the Williams and Patton firm in New Orleans and of Sulley, Toledano and Patton in Chattanooga. While in Holly Springs, he wrote a poem about the Indian Legend of the city's founding. He also ran the city's gas works for a time. The rectory, in French Empire style, built in 1885, possesses architecture that is unusual in Holly Springs. See photo, Miller-Smith, 45.

⁴ Dr. T. W. Raymond, president of North Mississippi Presbyterian College was instrumental in having

A pretty story of a mare's maternal affection is connected with the old reservoir. When Douglas Baird lived at the old Tom Bennett Place he used the hollow for pasture. One morning his mare came running to the fence, showing distress and trying to attract his attention. Following her he found her colt had fallen in between the reservoir and the wall. It was extricated, none the worse than a big scare.

Another institution connected with the hollow was Miss Caroline Cutler's⁵ school.

The Mayor and Board of Selectmen, as they were then called, leased October 31, 1859, to her for ten years a lot on the west side of the hollow, on high ground, for the school. The house was a one room affair in which the children who later were to figure in the life of Holly Springs received the primary part of their education.

Another building that fringed the hollow was the market house with the calaboose in the rear. The market house was abandoned as such and Whittington opened a meat market where Con Bonds' is now about sixty years ago, and a meat market has been there ever since.

electric and water plants constructed in Holly Springs, aiding as these amenities did, his effort to portray his school as a healthful and progressive institution. Rumors of yellow fever still caused the imposition of quarantines in Holly Springs, and because of this, some parents chose to send their daughters to schools in the North. In 1898, Raymond wrote in the catalog: "It is time that the people in this section of the country should learn to take a calm and conservative view of the yellow fever situation. This town has not been afflicted with this scourge for more than twenty years... It is necessary for the people of Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, West Tennessee, and other southern States to stand together in this matter, to uphold the institutions which have been so successfully planted in this section, and not rush their sons and daughters away to distant points where the severe winters are detrimental to health, and the cost of education is proportionately greater. *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 317, 322.

⁵ Daughter of Dr. and Mrs. S. P. Cutler.

11.

LAST GAS POST GOES: REVIVING MEMORIES.

Prominence of Holly Springs as a Manufacturing Center is Recalled.—Gas Works Closed Thirty Years Ago When Electric Lights Were Installed.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (January 17, 1929). The old and the new met in contest Friday and the old had to give way when the last old gas post in the city was uprooted to make way for the concreting of College Avenue. It stood at the corner of College and Randolph Avenues by the H. Myers' home.¹

When the gas works were installed in the late fifties the antebellum glory of Holly Springs was at its peak. It was one of the most progressive as well as cultured towns in Mississippi.

Measured by the progress and achievements of today gas works seem pathetically insignificant, but then it marked the high tide of progress and initiative. Probably only Natchez, Vicksburg, Jackson, Columbus and Meridian had gas.

No one seems to know why the old gas post has been allowed to remain so long. The gas works closed down in 1898 with the installation of electric lights,² and their finish was completed

¹ On the corner where the Baptist Activity Building is now located. Another old gas post stood until about 1960 at the corner of Craft Street and Chulahoma Avenue. It may be seen at the Marshall County Historical Museum. The museum displays three early iron gas lamp posts, and three, of granite (for some of the towns early electric street lights), have been set up in Spring Hollow, near the site of the original gas works.

² Chesley Smith recalled the era. She wrote that: "I must be one of the very few persons left who remembers when the electricity was turned on only at night. I mean we actually had no electricity from the power house during the day. Hubert McAlexander, Sr. told me that his father had told him how hard it was to find anything in the safe at the sheriff's office because of having no light in the daytime. He blamed Mr. Rogers for being such a tight Yankee." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 14. E. C. Rogers built the town's first electric power plant in 1898—the dynamo can still be seen in the basement of the police department, on the north side of the square, which is located in the old power plant. The generator was originally powered by

when the reservoir blew up from Green Lucas lighting his pipe near a leak. Green was not hurt but he was a badly scared negro.³

In spite of the glory of the past as recalled by the gas post the modern citizen may draw some comfortable comparisons between then and now so far as health and creature comforts go.

Then in the winter "shoe months" was a moderate depth for mud in the streets and hub deep more like it. Sidewalks were made by nailing four-foot planks side wise on sleepers, and in walking abreast one might be tripped from a loose end, or nails would stick up and bruise the feet.⁴ Bad as the streets were, county roads were worse. Drinking water was obtained from usually unsanitary cisterns and shallow wells, and visitations of slow fever were frequent.

Three major diseases—cholera, smallpox and yellow fever—threatened in those days dreadful visitations periodically.⁵ The diagnosis of scarlet fever or diphtheria was almost as a death warrant.

steam, which was later converted to an oil engine. In June 1936 the city joined the TVA electrical distribution system, and many new customers were attracted by the low rates afforded by the Federally subsidized utility. *MemphisPress-Scimitar* (April 15, 1938).

³ See photos, Miller-Smith, 111.

⁴ Mary Virginia Grigsby Foley remembered the wooden sidewalks of Holly Springs: "bare boards and weathered by the sun. They were quite splintery and as we children went 'barefoot' except on Sundays, someone was always being de-splintered. Also, snakes scorpions and lizards lived under the boards and were apt to run across the walk just as you were passing by. A favorite game of mischievous little boys was putting a long black stocking stuffed with cotton across the walk." *Memories of Childhood in Holly Springs*, 4.

⁵ Robert B. Alexander wrote from his plantation at "Happy Hill," on December 3, 1865 that: "To-day we are all at home. No preaching on account of small-pox. It is said there are 17 cases in town."

But Holly Springs of then can also make comparisons. Besides a cultured and hospitable citizenship—which should still be marked exhibit A—it had much to show. Industrially, there was more manufacturing and more mechanics employed than at any period since the War of the Sixties.

In the foundry of Jones, McIlwain & Co., was cast the material for the Moresque Building in New Orleans, a huge three-story iron structure of Moorish architecture that covered a block and was long a showplace in the Crescent City.¹

Locomotives and cars were constructed there for the Mississippi Central Railroad, now the Illinois Central Road, and cannon were cast there for the Confederacy.²

There were wagon and carriage factories, on a smaller scale, it is true, but they turned out vehicles that would run the "old one-horse shay" a close second in lasting qualities.

But back to the gas post.

On the site of the present Myers' residence was built many years before the Civil War a large frame building known as Franklin Female College. The grandmothers and great-grandmothers of many of the present generation were educated there.

The building served many purposes in its time. It was closed as a school during the war and for several years thereafter, and during part of that time was used as barracks and hospital.³

¹ Lowry and McCordle's *History of Mississippi* states that "in the city of New Orleans, on Camp Street, facing the old Lafayette Square, is a tall cast-iron structure, called the Moresque Building, and on the base of the iron columns that rise to support the Moorish arches is an inscription that tells of the growth and prosperity of Mississippi. It states that the iron was cast in Holly Springs, Mississippi, and shows that during Governor McWillie's administration, Holly Springs, with her own capital, was a successful competitor against the foundries of the country," 172.

² Evidence cannot now be found that either locomotives or cannon were produced at the Holly Springs foundry.

³ Many local buildings were used as hospitals during the war, including the Jones, McIlwain Foundry, the Female Institute, the Courthouse, the Baptist, and Roman Catholic Churches. Cordelia Scales wrote May 15, 1862 that "It would make your heart bleed to witness the sufferings of the poor Soldiers. There are

Court was held there and it was used as a theatre until the courthouse and Masonic Hall with its theater were rebuilt. It was reopened as a school in the early seventies.

If the old gas post could talk!

It has seen the chivalry and beauty of the old South gather at concert and commencement. Under its flickering rays the young gallants read the scented *billet doux* that fluttered down from the casements of cloistered beauty.

It saw the youth of the land march away to war confident of victory; it saw ragged gray-clad horsemen dash in futile efforts against the forces that were closing in on them.

In the nineties the old building was rejuvenated and converted into a hostelry—the Holly Springs Inn, and for awhile had a great vogue with the traveling public and classy boarders. Many social functions were held there.

But the negro hackman⁴ stalled on the name, they knew nothing of inns, and a hotel was a hotel to them. So they dubbed it the "Hotel Inn," and the humor of the thing caught the public and it was oftener used than the real name.

five Hospitals [in Holly Springs]. You can't cross a street or turn a corner, but what...you see wounded or sick soldiers. Some...their leg shot off and walking on crutches, and some with their arms shot off..." Cordelia Lewis Scales to "Dearest Darlie Loulie," Scales Letters. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Jackson, Mississippi.

⁴ Hacks were horse drawn versions of the taxicab.

12.

BRUTAL MURDER OF MARCUS LOUIS OUTSTANDING CASE IN LOCAL HISTORY.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (December 15, 1932). The murder of Marcus Louis and the execution of John Cannady, an Irishman, for the crime, is in a way the outstanding case of Marshall County's criminal history.¹

The sordid foulness of the murder, the swift retribution and the large crowd attending the execution, give it first place.

Marcus Louis, a Jew, kept a small general store on the north side of the square where the Pure Drug Pharmacy is now located. His body was found on the floor, about thirty feet from the front door.

Circumstances pointed, though not then conclusively, to John Cannady, as the murderer.

The crime profoundly shocked this community and section; the murders that had occurred before had in most cases the element of excuse that the perpetrator was moved by anger, revenge or passion.

But this was stark murder for the sordid purpose of robbery; and at once fate handed Cannady its first double-cross—Louis had that afternoon deposited several hundred dollars with his brother-in-law, J. B. Rosenfield, having only a few dollars in change in the till.

The Holly Springs South of Thursday, February 17, 1876, under the head of "Murder Most Foul," has this story of the crime:

"Our community was startled yesterday morning by the intelligence that the body of Marcus Louis had been found in his store, stiff in death, with his head crushed and his brains scattered, by a blow from an axe, which was lying by his side with the stains of blood upon it.

"The deceased was living alone, and was last seen alive about half-past nine o'clock Tuesday night, at which time he purchased a dime's worth of lager beer from a neighboring saloon. How soon after his return to his store he was killed is unknown.

"The appearances were such as to lead to the belief that he was waiting upon a customer when the fatal blow was stricken. The object it is believed was robbery.

"Circumstances strongly point to one John Cannady, an Irishman,² as the perpetrator of the diabolical act. This man left town this morning, it is supposed, on the down train.³

"He is about 25 years of age, wears his hair short, heavy set, blue eyes, worked on the railroad near this place for a short time; but for several weeks past has been doing nothing but gambling, and usually goes well armed."

SEVERAL SUSPECTS ARRESTED

Several suspects were arrested, but soon released for lack of evidence. Cannady was located near Michigan City⁴ and brought back within a week.

A large crowd gathered on the square to see Cannady as he was brought in a strongly guarded hack from the depot. Someone cried, "Lynch

² A great many Irish settlers found their way to Holly Springs in the 1850s where they found employment as laborers in the construction of the Mississippi Central Railroad. Many remained and worked in the railroad shops which were located here until after the Civil War. This community formed the nucleus of the nascent Roman Catholic parish, St. Joseph's, described elsewhere in these pages.

³ Although timetables usually designated trains as "northbound" and "southbound," the public commonly referred to them as "up" (northward) and "down" (southward) trains.

⁴ A small community about eighteen miles northeast of Holly Springs.

¹ See a similar story involving a man named Pleasant Mask (or Mast), pp. 208, 361.

him," and a rush was made, but stopped by the officers.¹

Cannady was found guilty at the March term of court and sentenced to hang on Wednesday, May 24. Asked if he had anything to say, he replied that he would have to bear any punishment that might be put upon him, but that he "would suffer innocently, the guilty parties having been turned loose."

The "guilty parties" referred to were Miles Washington and Elbert Watson, negroes, who had been arrested as accessories, but released for lack of evidence.

Judge Orlando Davis told me that he had chosen Wednesday for the execution in an effort to relieve Friday of the stigma of "hangman's day." James T. Fant, who later served as circuit judge, was district attorney.

The trial gave two young law graduates opportunity to "flesh their maiden spears." Frank Walter, partner with his father, Col. H. W. Walter, was appointed by the court to assist the state, and Fox Moore, reared near Red Banks, and law partner of Judge J. W. C. Watson, was with J. C. Atkinson appointed to defend.

Walter and Moore were fine young men with brilliant careers before them when stricken by the yellow fever two years later. Fox Moore was the only lawyer I ever heard of who had the courage to ride with his client to the gallows—a nice gesture I thought.

Cannady was a Roman Catholic and sent for the priest, Father Oberti.² Cannady cleared the murder up by openly confessing his guilt, and so "went clean."

LARGE CROWD AT HANGING

The execution drew the largest crowd I have ever seen in Holly Springs—variously estimated at between 5,000 and 6,000. There had been no

¹ Lynching involved both black and white victims in the Old South, and the practice enjoyed widespread public approval. As late as 1940, under the guise of protecting states' rights, prominent Mississippi ministers spoke out against a proposed Federal anti-lynch law.

² The Rev. Anacletus Oberti, a native of Italy, ministered among a parish that was predominately Irish.

legal execution in the county for nearly twenty years. All executions were public and people came for forty miles and camped out the night before.³

The gallows was in the woods beyond the Frisco station,⁴ in a natural amphitheater. It was a most crude affair; a trap hinged to one upright and held by a rope over the other upright, which was brought down to where it could be cut with a hatchet.

A ladder on each side afforded means of mounting the trap and also helped to support it. The ladders were withdrawn before cutting the rope. In my boyhood days there was an uncomfortable tradition of a nervous officer missing the rope and having to repeat the blow.

The procession started from the old jail about 11 o'clock for the scene of execution, the condemned man seated in a closed carriage surrounded by about fifty guards.

Seated in the carriage with him were his ghostly counselor, Father Oberti, his legal counsel, Fox Moore and Sheriff Henry C. Myers, who was to become Secretary of State in 1878. Father Oberti was the martyr-priest in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878.

Cannady's neck was so large that there was speculation as to whether or not the rope would slip over his head. It held, and he was pronounced dead in fifteen minutes. The body was buried in the southeast corner of the cemetery.

³ Many Mississippi communities set up the gallows on the courthouse lawn, and continued the practice until well into the 20th century. Spectacles such as this made a great impression on the public mind and were rare in the history of Holly Springs. Perhaps the earliest hanging recorded here took place in the spring of 1839. By the account of James J. Selby, "March 1: This day a man was hung for murdering a man by the name of Green—the criminal was named Loper." "Sundries Events" (March 1, 1839).

⁴ In 1927, to speed up train schedules between Memphis and Birmingham, the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway stopped backing its trains into the large Illinois Central depot and built its own station beside the Frisco tracks on a spot just east of the I. C. station. Advertised when built as a great improvement to the city, the building was torn down in the 1960s after the last passenger trains were discontinued. See R. Milton Winter, "Casey Jones' Railroad," in *The Green Diamond: Magazine of the Illinois Central Railroad Historical Society*.

13.

STORY OF AN OLD DOG THAT ONCE PLAYED AROUND HOLLY SPRINGS.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (December 15, 1932). This will be a saga of dogs and cats, and in one instance my hasty judgment received a rebuke and I learned that a bulldog could be a gentleman sometimes.

I owned some years ago a red Irish setter dog named Sport, a gentleman, if ever one walked on four feet. Children seemed to feel instinctively that they could play with him and swarmed around him.

He discriminated accurately between lovers and non-lovers of dogs, and while courteous to the latter never intruded on them, but always met friends with a smile—yes, he could smile—and a friendly wag of his tail.

He had lots of sense, and used it to his own advantage. We were out walking one sizzling hot day, when a rabbit jumped up almost under his nose, and while he seemed to think he was expected to chase the rabbit, he had no notion of doing so on that hot afternoon; but instead threshed about furiously until the rabbit had gone some distance, then looked up suddenly at the rabbit and turned with an expression that said, "he has gone too far to catch."

But Sport had an alibi; he had not been trained as a bird dog, but until maturity had been owned by a pot hunter¹ in the Delta and trained only to catch wounded wild turkey or bring in duck from the water. My brother, Mercer, bought him from the pot hunter, as he was growing too old for the work and left him here when he went to the Philippines.

ASHAMED WHEN CLIPPED

Sport's coat had evidently never been clipped, when I left him at a livery stable for bartering. The hostler did a good job and clipped

him close. He felt greatly humiliated, and slunk along with bowed head when children would laugh at him on the way home.

Some of the family had been out of town and when he heard them coming ran under the bed. But next summer he knew what clipping was for, and when the hostler called, "Next," he jumped about in great glee and comfort.

He followed me to a party one night and I left him outside, but later hearing some exclamations of delight I went into the hall and found that he had gotten in and was coiled up gracefully on the carpet. He was a handsome fellow and his coat matched the carpet, and the ladies, who had artistic ability were raving over the picture.

While I am a dog lover I never fancied a bulldog. There was a mouse-colored bulldog here then that had such a bad name that many hoped that somebody would bump him off, and he was found in the alley a few weeks after this incident, torn limb from limb by other dogs.

But even so, he taught me the best lesson I ever had in making too hasty judgment, and impressing upon me that there is some good in the worst.

Sport had grown so old and feeble that I had to go on to my work at *The Reporter* office and leave him to follow. One morning as I was passing Stafford's corner² I saw the bulldog gnawing a bone—along the path Sport would come—and I was uneasy.

He was so long coming that I looked out and there he stood in the grass where I had seen the bulldog. It was too far for rescue and I turned

¹ The dictionary describes a pot hunter as "one who shoots or kills without regard for the rules of the sport."

² Stafford's Café, long a local landmark, stood on the town square at the northwest corner of Memphis Street and Van Dorn Avenue, where the Ralph Doxey Building is now. It burned December 10, 1956.

away that I might not see the tragedy. I looked later and there was Sport at the door—unharmed.

George Moore, colored, who kept a meat shop nearby, was so full of what he saw that he came to tell me. He said first came a young pointer dog, which the bulldog promptly chased away, and then old Sport came. With an air of, "help yourself," the bulldog walked way off and lay down.

Sport's toothless gums could do little with the bone and he soon left. "But," George said, "the bulldog didn't go right off and get it, but waited until Sport had gone a good piece, and then got it."

Could a Chesterfield have done more?

THE DEATH OF SPORT

Sport went out on that Sunday in May 1907, that the big tent blew down during the dedication services at M. I. College,¹ and we gave him a "stately" funeral.

Good old Mike Gallagher, the sexton—rest his soul—had business elsewhere as we "bootlegged" the body into the rear of Hill Crest Cemetery, across a ravine where no graves will ever be dug—and there he rests. "I have seen fewer people at a human funeral," remarked a friend as we left.

There is a saying that "the cat stays with the house, the dog moves with the family," but I have known two exceptions.

My sister owned a black cat that wandered off the day they moved to another house some distance away. We heard of him in the old neighbor-

hood and caught distant glimpses of him, but couldn't catch him.

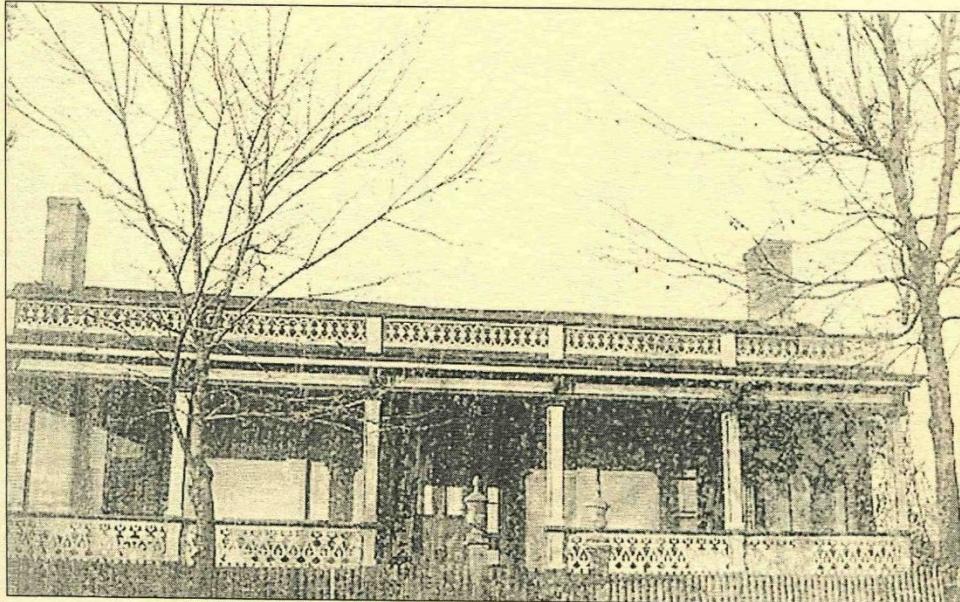
One night a year or so later the family heard scratching at the door and on opening it, in walked the black cat. Probably he had recognized their voices and had come home to stay.

Another instance was that of a cat my niece, Lucy Minor McClain of Jackson, Tenn., owned. The family moved across town and the cat was carried in a closed basket. He disappeared and a friend called up to say that he was back in the old neighborhood.

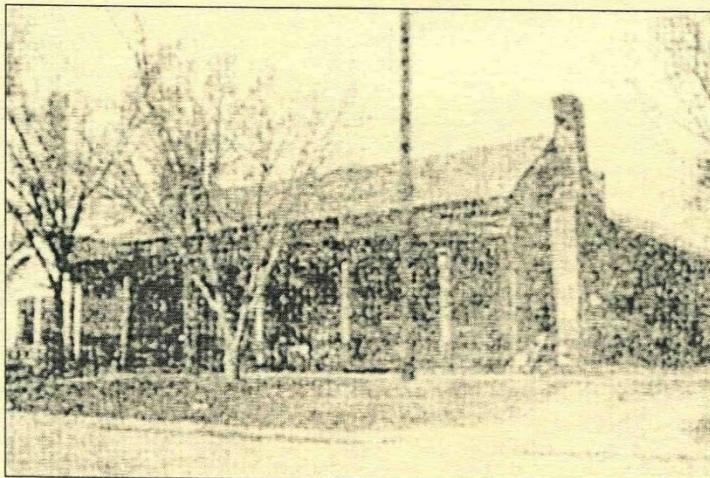
A second time he was carried home in the basket, but again went back to the old home, and they decided to let him stay. He returned to the new home, however, but continued to make periodic visits to the old home.

My sister owned another cat that was taking a nap on the garden fence one afternoon when two jaybirds became involved in a furious fight in the air. They maneuvered so close that old Tom reached up and grabbed one for his supper.

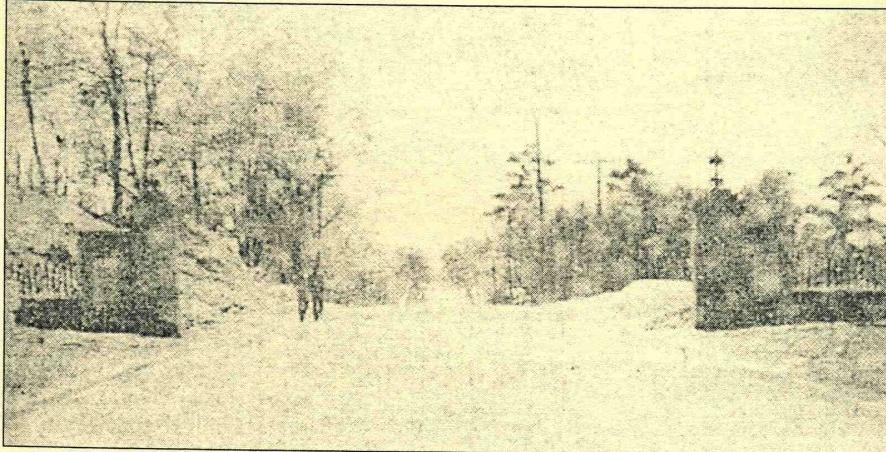
¹ Mr. Mickle refers to the dedication of Hammond Hall at Mississippi Industrial College, whose Jacobean architecture is unique in the Mid-South. The earliest buildings were designed by the firm of Heavener and McGhee of Jackson, Tennessee. Due to a technicality in a 1905 law, the college was named Mississippi Industrial, but in reality was established as and remained until its collapse in the 1980s, a liberal arts institution. The campus has been placed on the register of the "Ten Most Endangered Historic Sites" a list maintained by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. See *Written in the Bricks*, 96-97; *Southern Tapestry* 108, 132, 159, 160; see photos, p. 124.



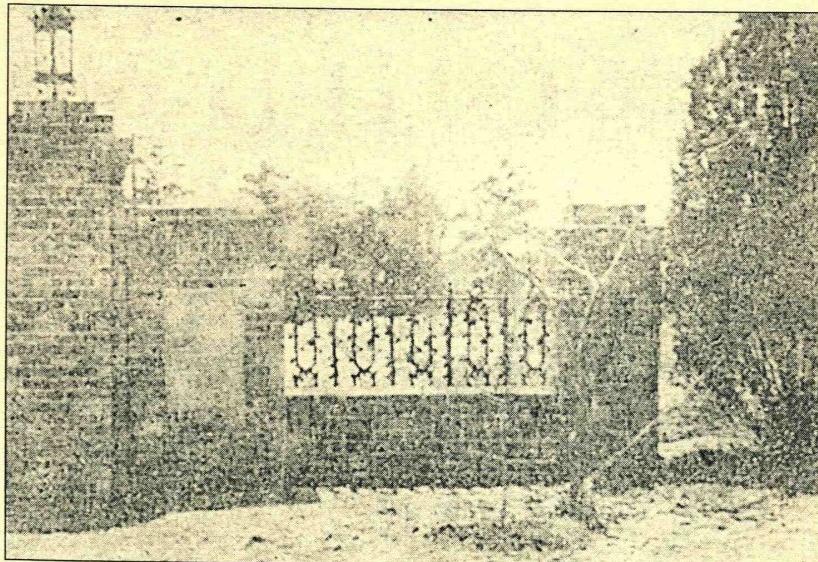
Mr. Mickle remembered that "Jesse P. Norfleet, ancestor of the prominent Norfleet family in Memphis was in business here." His home stood at the corner of Gholson and Craft Streets, a house later purchased by S. V. Cochran. This is a view of the Norfleet-Cochran Place, now known as "Dunvegan" by Lem Johnson, who made a remarkable set of pictures of Holly Springs homes in 1901, many of which are republished in these pages. Chesley Smith collection.



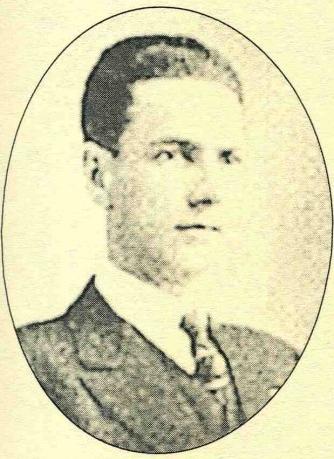
The Woodruff-Fennell Place originally located on College between Spring and Randolph Streets. Mr. Mickle recalled that Mr. Woodruff, a Holly Springs gunsmith of pioneer days, "made a rifle literally, lock, stock, and barrel." Photo by Olga Reed Pruitt.



Beautiful entrance gates to the City of Holly Springs were placed at the top of the Rust College Hill on U. S. Highway 78 by the Holly Springs Garden Club in 1938. They were decorated with iron work made before the Civil War at the Jones McIlwaine foundry, donated by Mrs. Bate Athey, whose husband was a nephew of Wiley A. P. Jones, a member of the firm.
Photo from *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*.



The entrance gates that stood for many years at the northern edge of the city were topped with brass lanterns from Walter Place, donated by Mrs. Oscar Johnson. The lanterns are currently preserved atop the gates of the Marshall County Historical Museum. Photo from *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*.



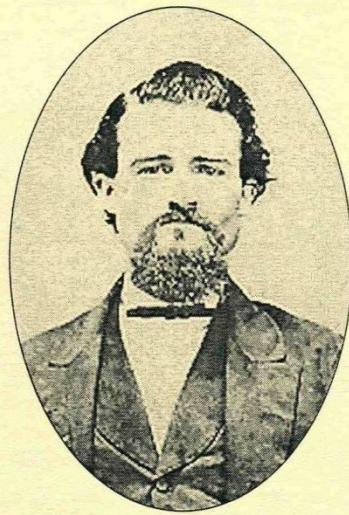
Wall Doxey, Holly Springs attorney,
and later a member of the U. S. Senate.
Photo from Mississippi: Heart of the South.



Annah Watson Robinson,
who composed a poetic account
of the "Spring Hollow" legend.



The square was the focus of activity for John Mickle, both as a young man in business and as the place where he made and maintained the friendships of a lifetime. County Officers, 1896, on the courthouse steps. Maggie Totten Robison collection.



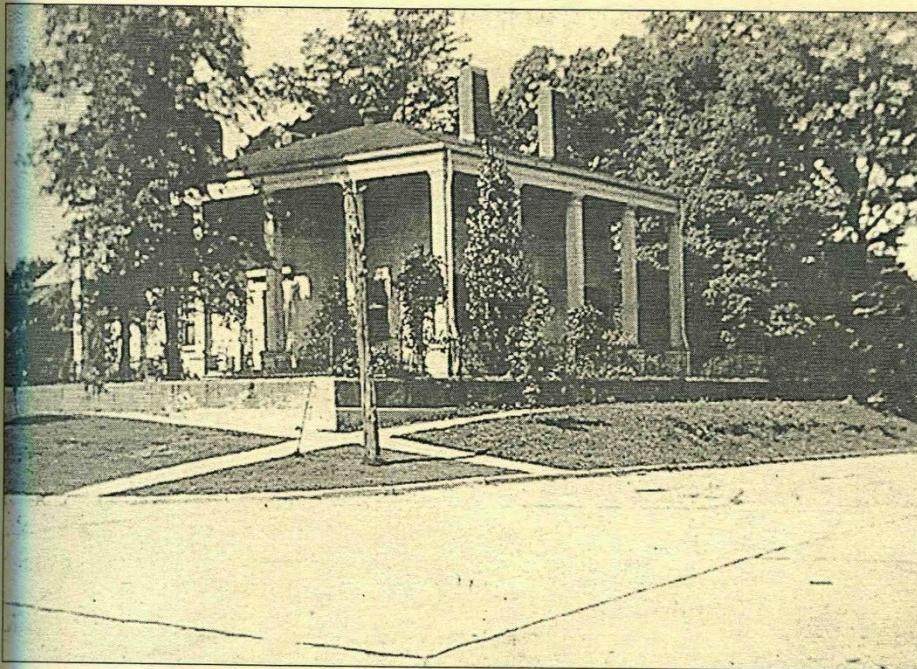
William Augustus Jones, a merchant on the square.
Photo from the Walthall-Freeman scrapbook,
Marshall County Historical Museum.



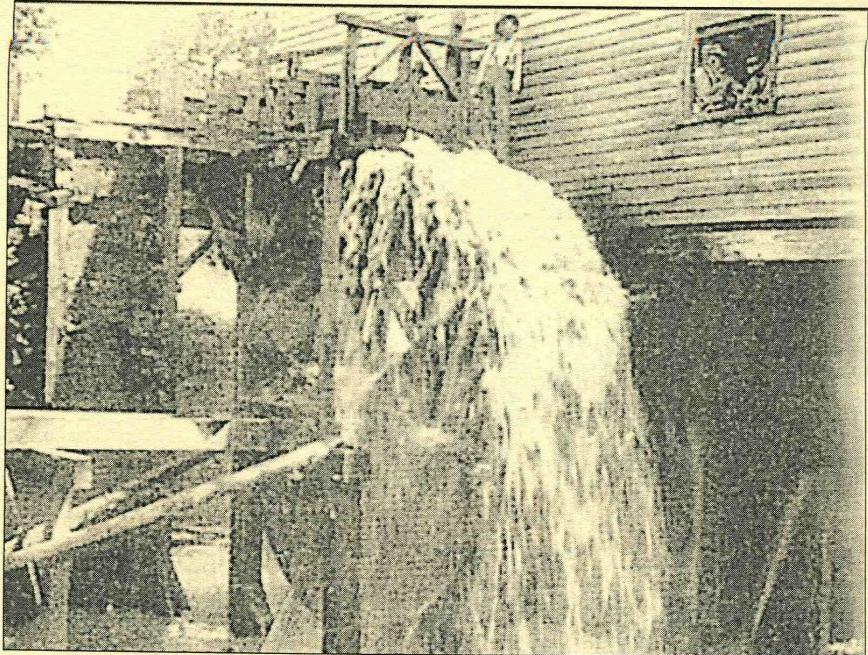
The William F. Mason Place. Later, their daughter Maggie married W. A. Jones.
The house was later named "The Magnolias" by Mrs. Everett Slayden.
Chesley Smith collection.



In the 1920s, the square was paved. First the inside lanes, then the outside.
This photo marks the ceremony to mark the first stage of paving the square.
The picture is taken, looking east, with the I. C. Levy Store (now Linwood's) at the right in the background.
Vadah Cochran collection. Photo from The South Reporter.



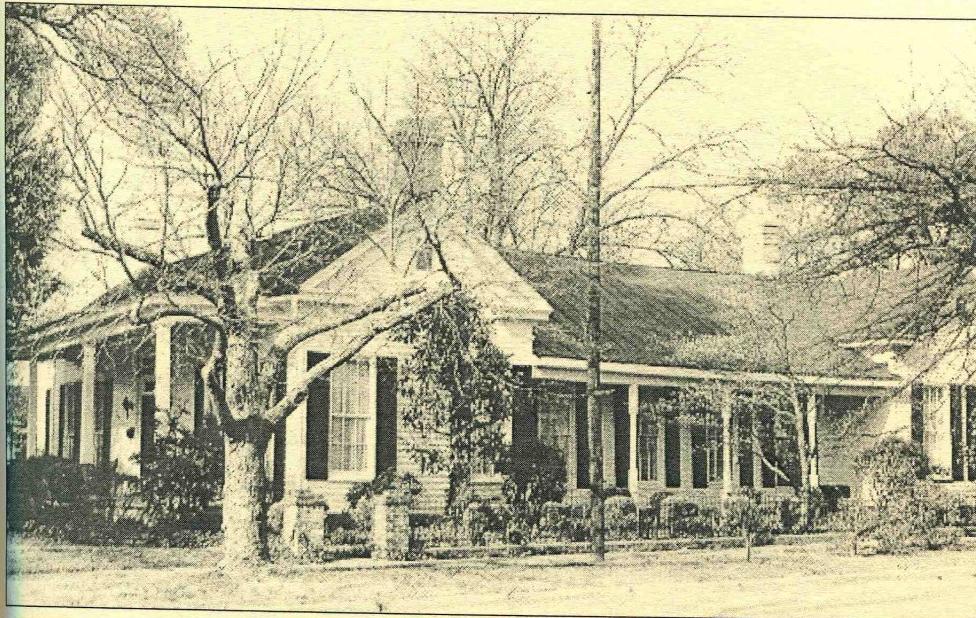
Freshly paved streets gleam in this photo of the Craft-Fort-Daniel Place at the corner of Gholson and Memphis Streets.
Chesley Smith collection.



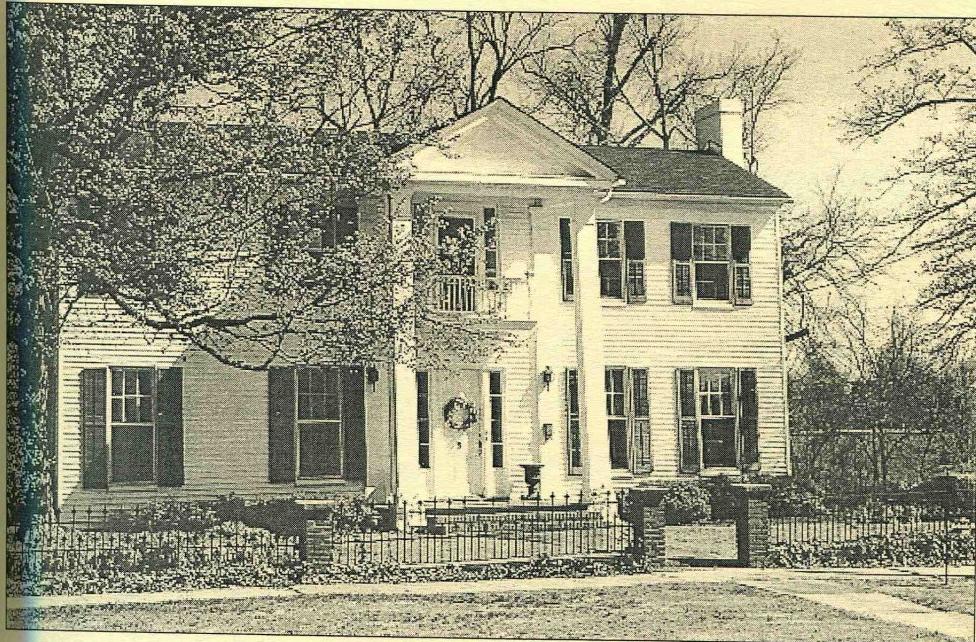
Water Wheel at the Boling Mill in Spring Hollow near the spot where the owner's young son was tragically killed in an accident Mr. Mickle describes.
Photo from the Hubert McAlexander collection.



Scene on the square, about 1885, thought to be in front of Brodie Hull's store.
(the building with the cast iron balcony which still stands on the west side). Photo from Hubert McAlexander.



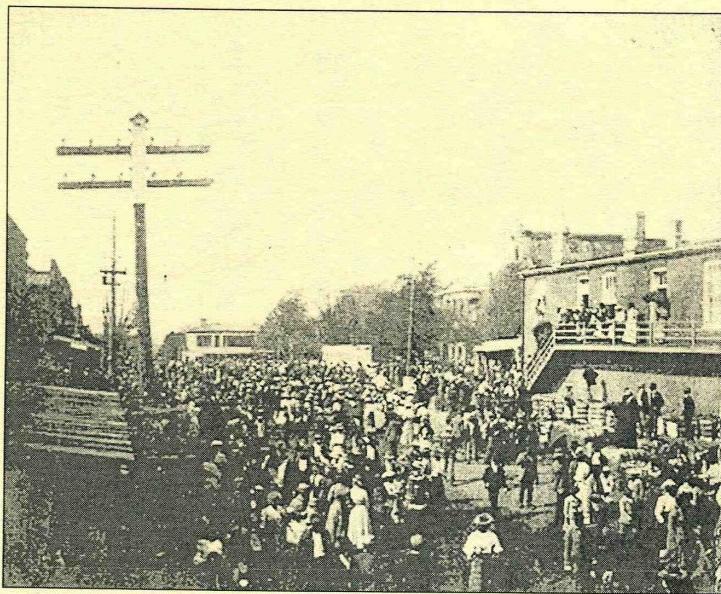
The James M. Anderson Place at the corner of Randolph and Falconer.
Photo from Stanley Shuler's Mississippi Valley Architecture.



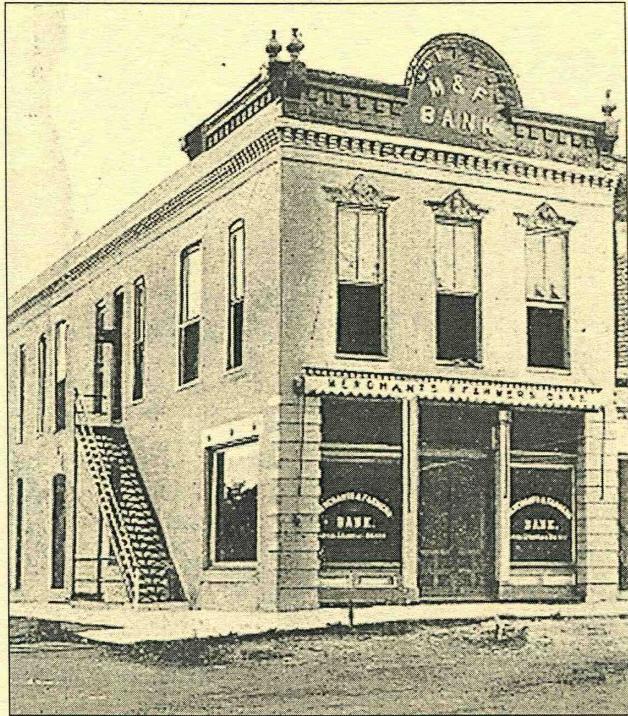
The R. R. McWilliams-Alexander McCrosky Place on East College Avenue.
Photo by R. Milton Winter.



View of the south side of the square between Center and Memphis Streets. Hamilton Harris is on the left.
The Miller Store corner is seen at right.
Chesley Smith collection.



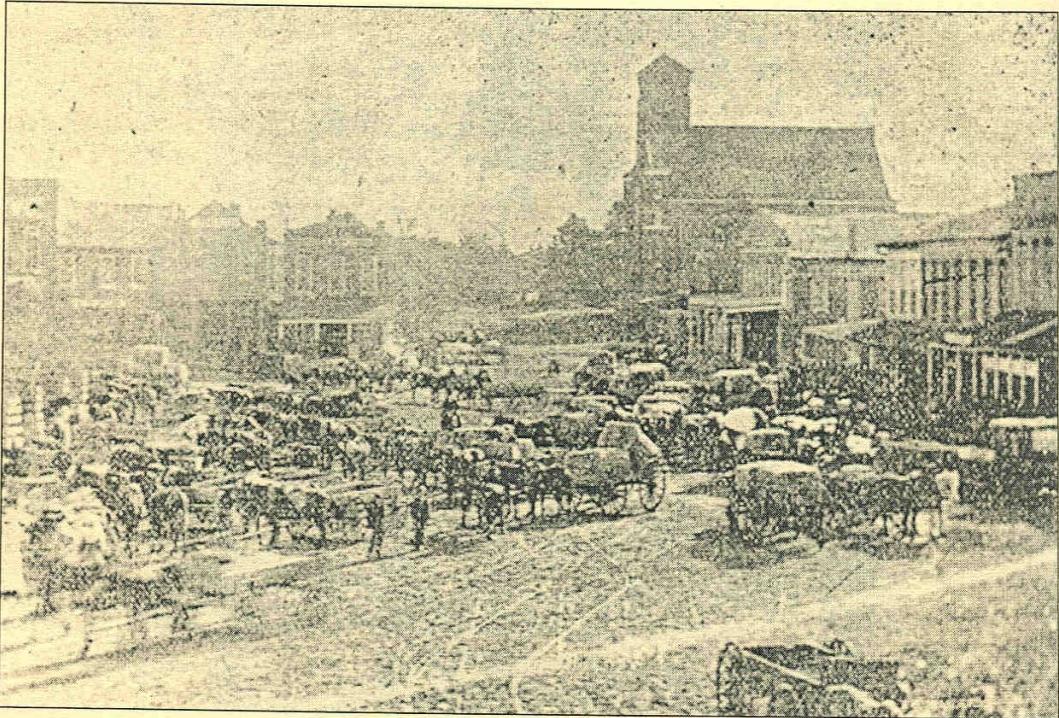
View of a crowd on the square, looking west toward the courthouse from Church Street (now Van Dorn Ave.)
The present-day Tyson Drug Co., would be on the left, and Linwood's to the right. The Stafford's Café building
can be seen on the west side of the square in the center of the photo. The scene reminds of Mr. Mickle's memory of
throngs that came out on the train to Holly Springs. "Excursion trains of ten or twelve packed coaches were often run
here from Memphis on Sundays and when the saloons were overcrowded, porters with waiters of glasses of whiskey would
be sent out to peddle them on the square." Chesley Smith collection.



Merchants & Farmers Bank as featured in a 1909 post card view.
Chesley Smith collection.



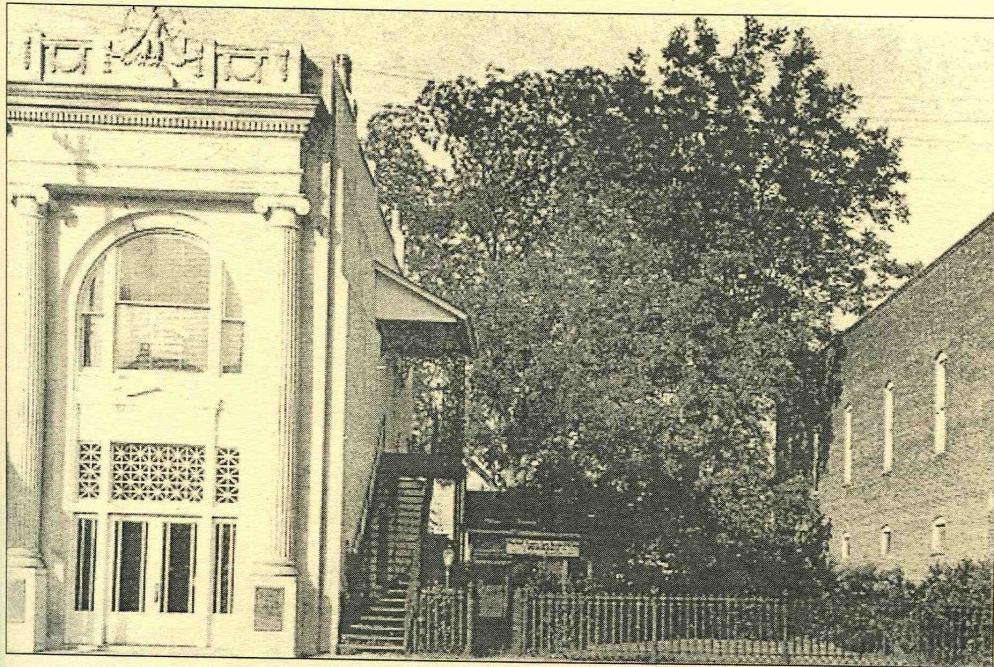
Cotton wagons and mules on the east side of the square in this photo looking north toward the Masonic Hall.
The J. G. Leach Store can be seen in the building which now houses Booker's Hardware.
The M. & F. Bank can be seen at left. Lem Johnson photo. Chesley Smith collection.



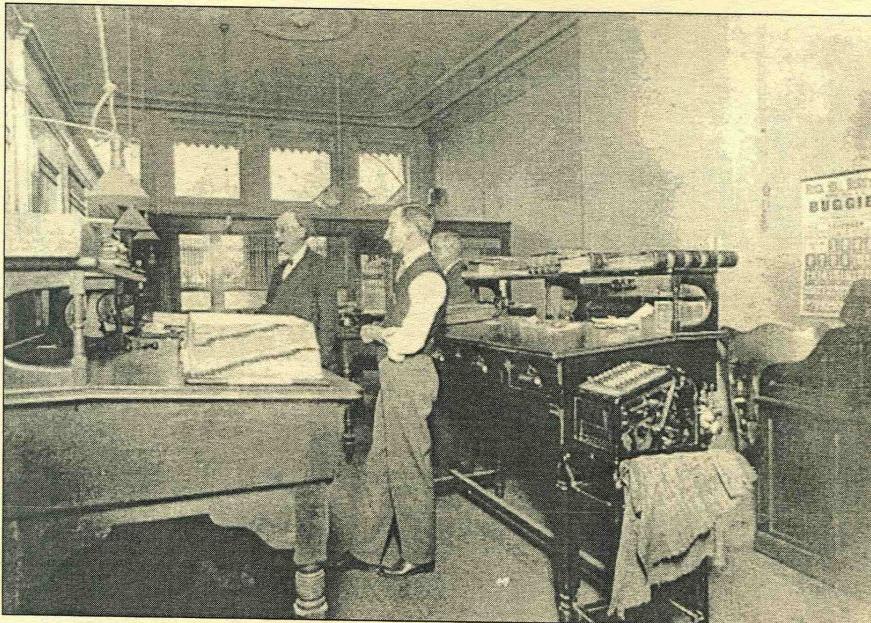
Another cotton scene, showing the Holly Springs in 1895, looking south, showing buildings on the south and west sides of the square. Note tower which once stood atop the Presbyterian Church. Photo courtesy of The South Reporter.



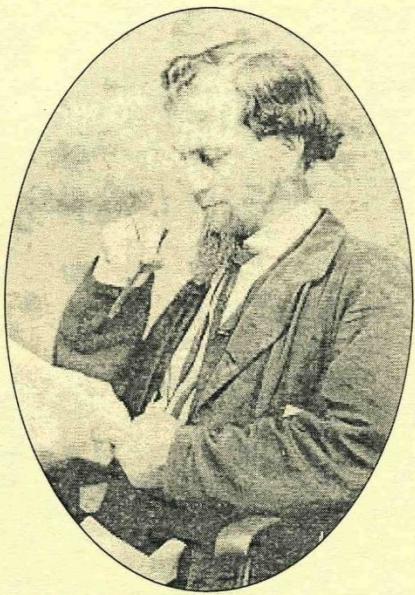
Later view of the west side of the square, looking north toward the post office.
Photo by Chesley Smith.



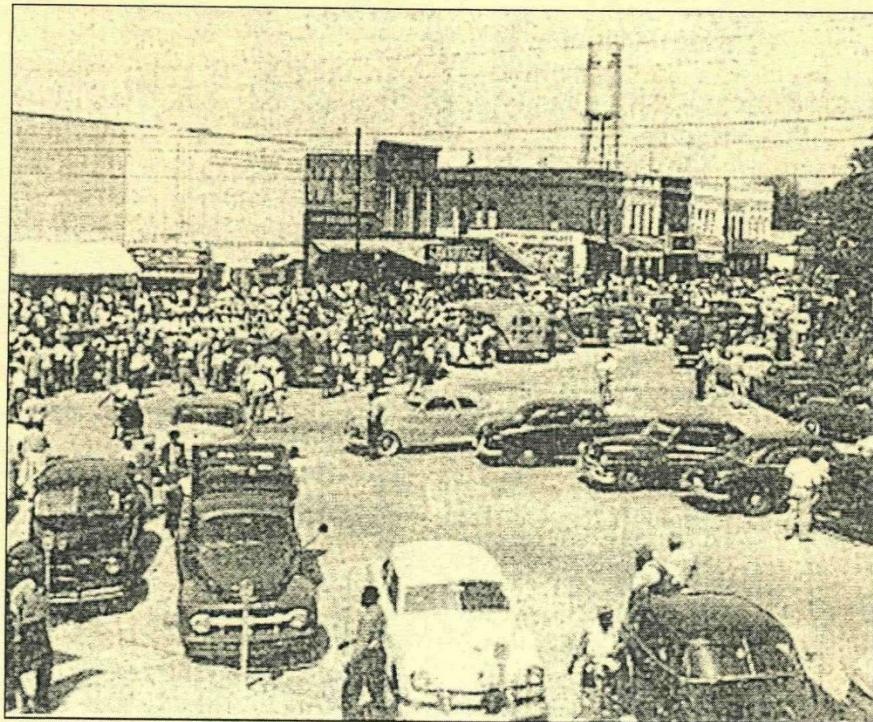
The Bank of Holly Springs, showing a portion of the cast iron fence that once surrounded the courthouse. The L. G. Fant law office was upstairs. The side of the Pythian-Odd Fellows building is seen to the right. Chesley Smith collection.



W. T. Ross, James Fort Daniel, and Henry Craft Fort at work in the Bank of Holly Springs. Chesley Smith collection.



Howard Falconer.
Photo from the Walthall-Freeman scrapbook,
Marshall County Historical Museum.



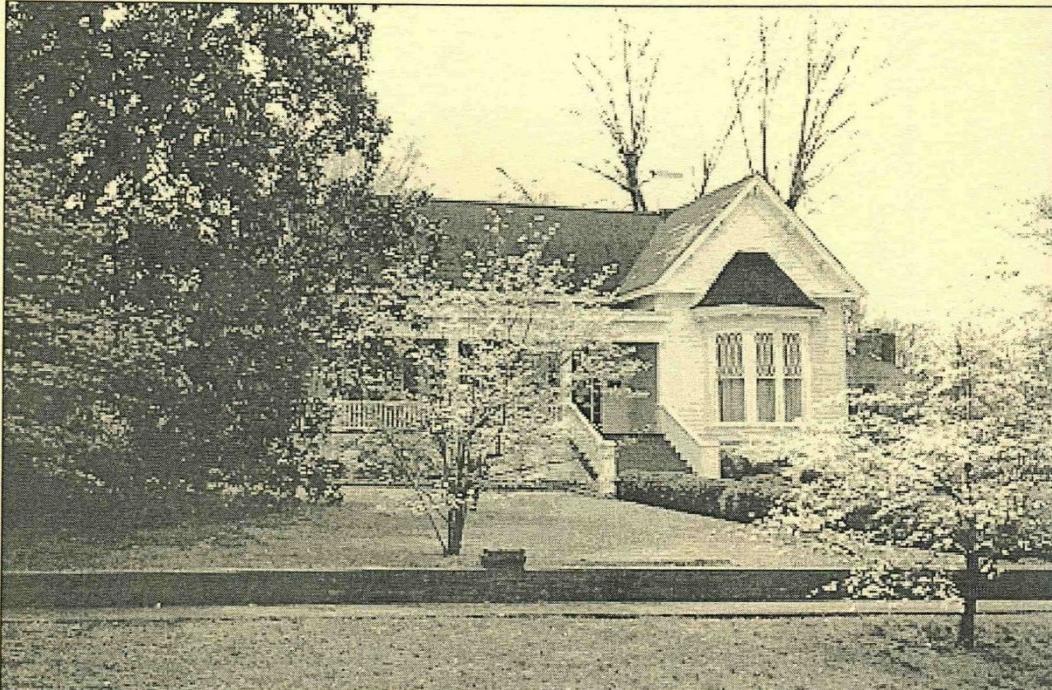
North Side of Square, looking east. Vadah Cochran photo.
Picture from The South Reporter.



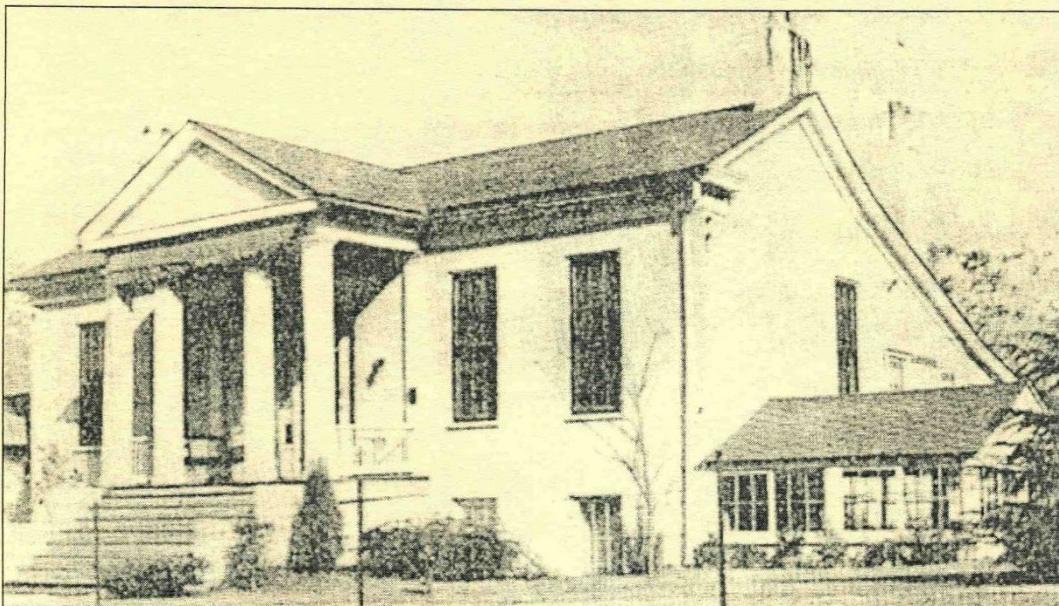
The Traveler's Inn. Photo from The South Reporter.



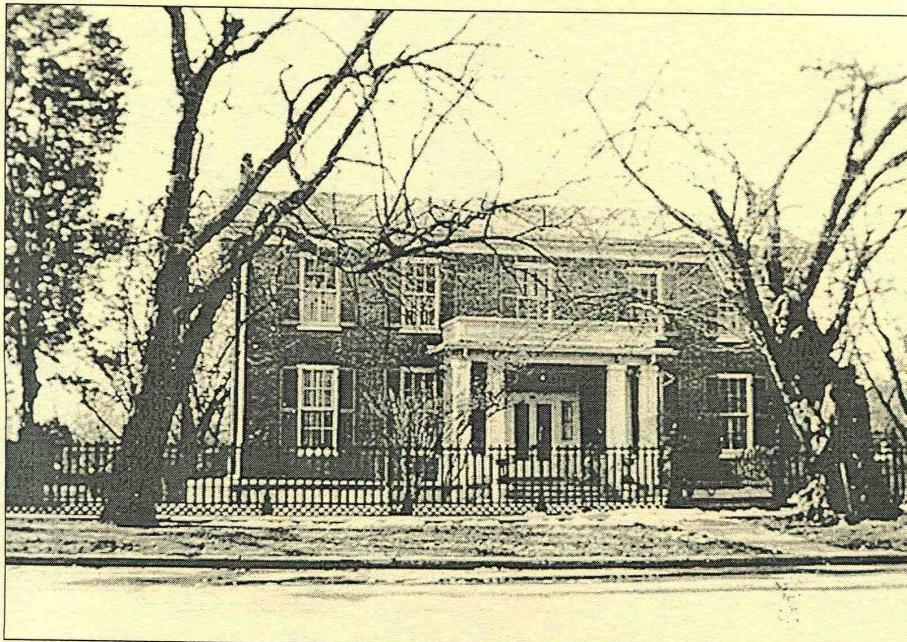
Inside the Sigman Brothers store on the square. Pictured in front of counter are Sam, Charlie, and Ben Sigman. This store, decorated for its grand opening, was located on the northwest corner of College and Market Streets, where Seale's Drug Store stood in later years. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Beulah Sigman.



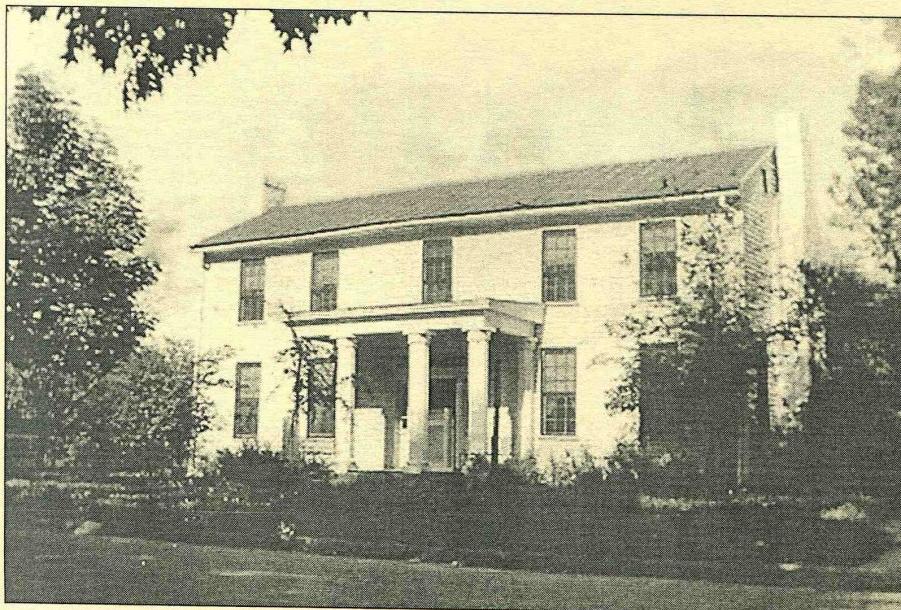
The L. A. Rather home on Gholson Avenue.
Photo by R. Milton Winter.



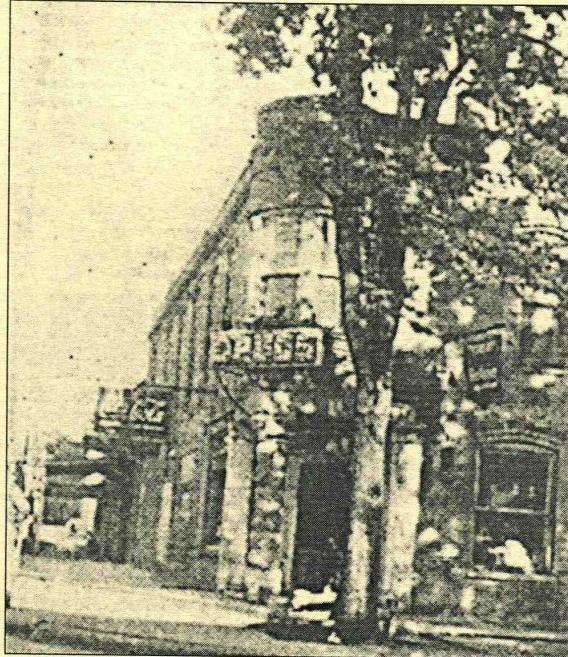
Old Dr. Butler Place on North Memphis Street.
Photo from The Marshall County Messenger.



The Burton-Tyson Place on South Memphis Street.
Photo from the Chesley Smith collection.



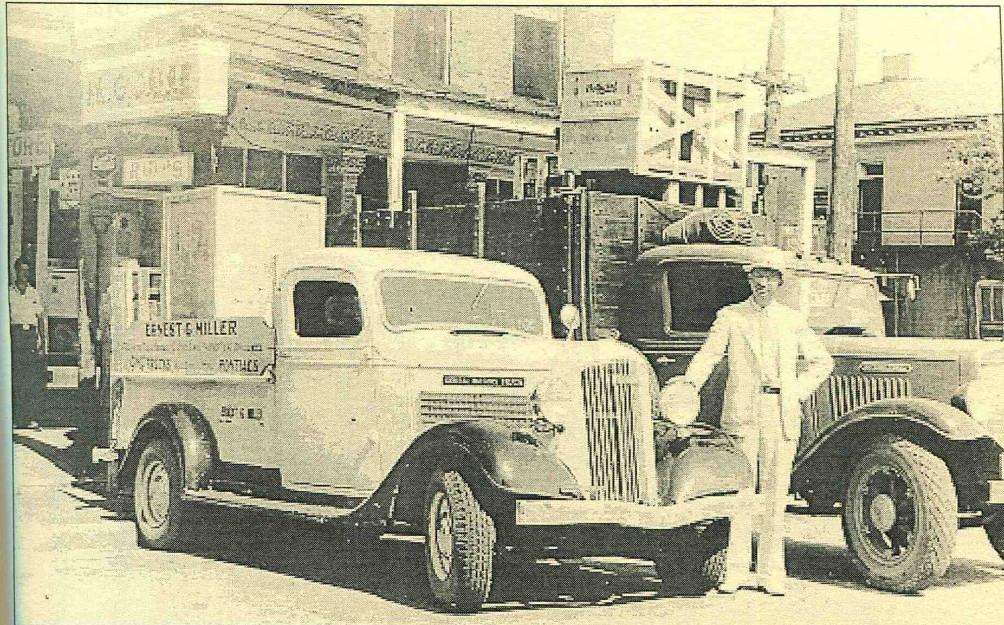
The S. O. Caruthers home which stood on East Gholson Avenue.
Photo by Chesley T. Smith.



The Tyson Drug Store Corner at the southeast corner of Van Dorn and Market Streets,
site of the former Butler Drug Co. Medical offices were upstairs.
Photo by Olga Reed Pruitt.



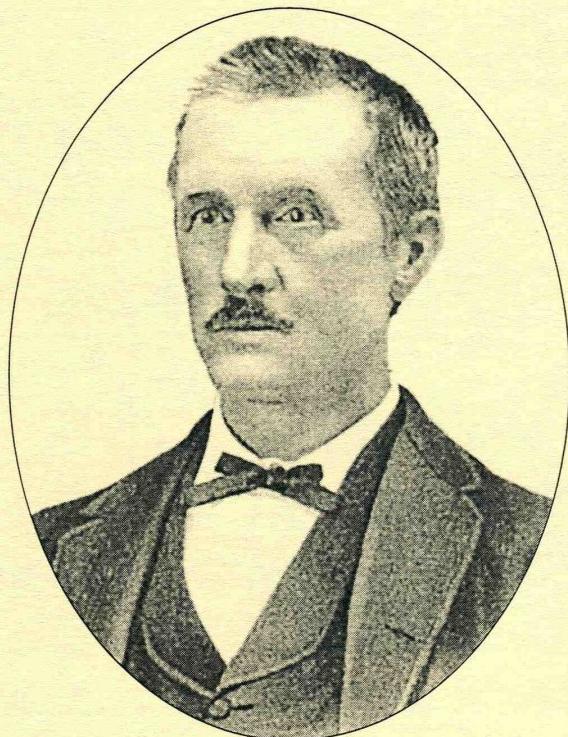
Photo of the physician's office located on Market Street, south of Tyson's Drug Store.
The C. A. Jones building, associated with Van Dorn's raid, stands between the drug store on the corner and the doctor's
office. The Levy Department Store can be seen at the far left. Photo from the Chesley Smith collection.



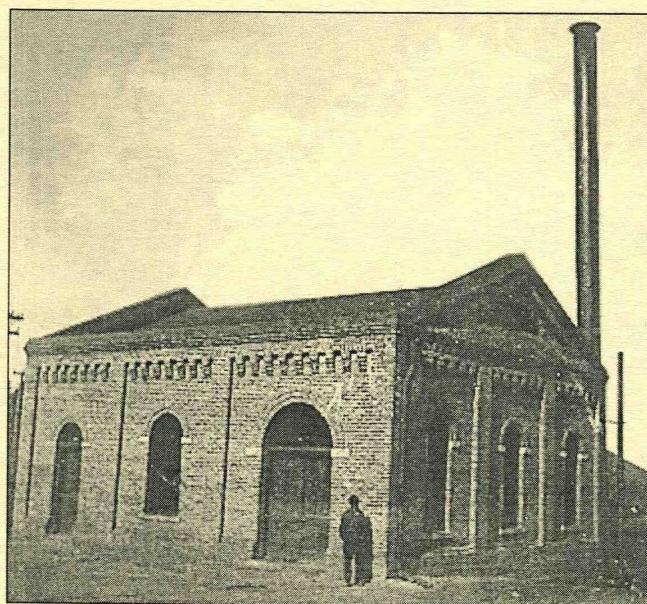
Ernest Miller was a businessman on the square. His store was at the southwest corner of Van Dorn and Memphis Streets, where the present Graham Miller store now is. Stafford's Café is seen in the background to the right.
Photo courtesy of Mark R. Miller.



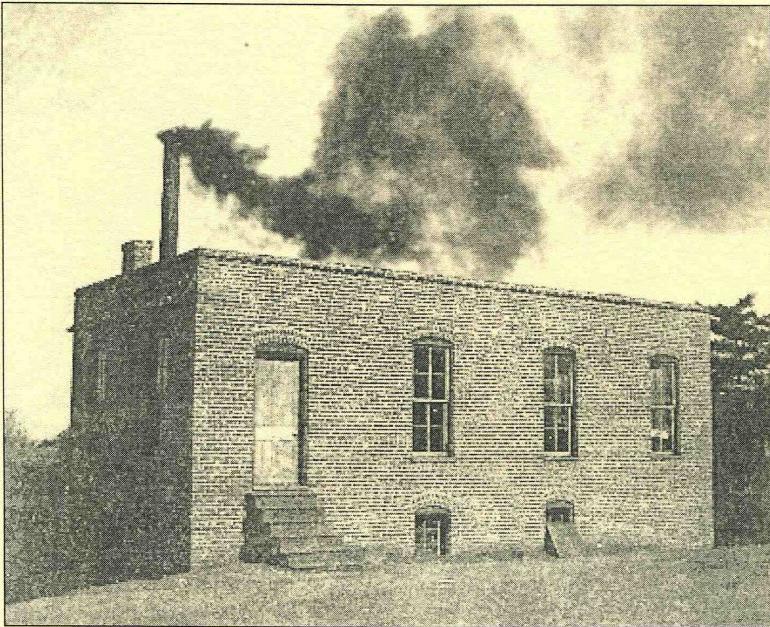
Ernest Miller was one of the first to see the value of mobile advertisements on his company trucks. On the running board of this truck is a device with light bulbs Miller used to demonstrate electrical generators he sold to rural customers in the days before TVA strung electric wires across Marshall County. Photo courtesy of Mark R. Miller.



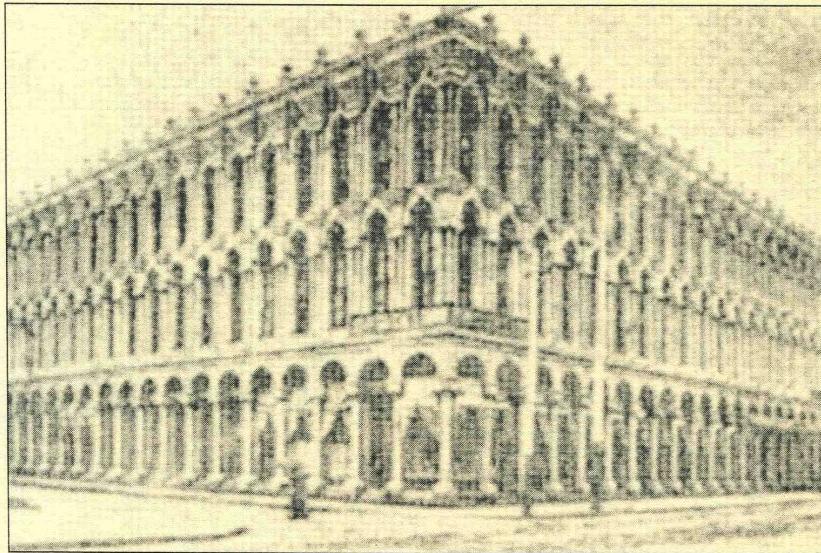
Dr. Samuel Creed Gholson, Photo from Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi.



City Power Plant on Falconer Avenue, north of the square, later incorporated into the old police station.
Lem Johnson photo. Chesley Smith collection.



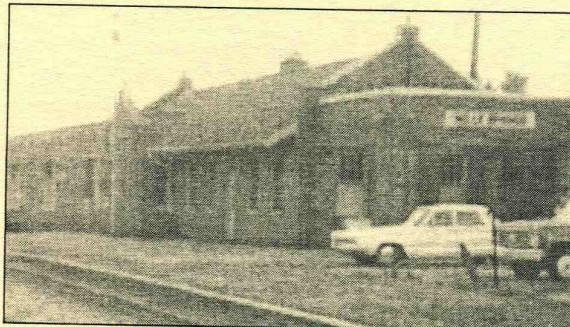
Gas Plant in Spring Hollow where Mr. Mickle wrote that, "When the gas works were installed in the late fifties the antebellum glory of Holly Springs was at its peak. It was one of the most progressive as well as cultured towns in Mississippi. No one seems to know why the old gas post has been allowed to remain so long. The gas works closed down in 1898 with the installation of electric lights, and their finish was completed when the reservoir blew up from Green Lucas lighting his pipe near a leak." Lem Johnson photo. Chesley Smith collection.



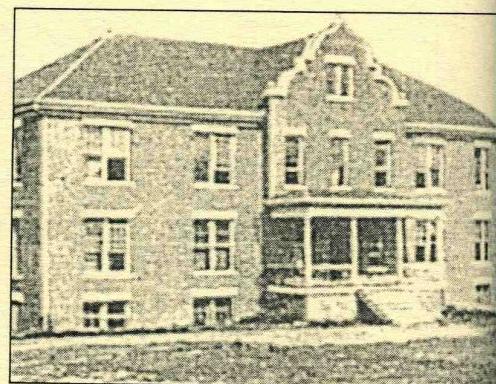
The Moresque Building in New Orleans faced with iron cast at the Jones, McIlwaine foundry in Holly Springs. The building was destroyed by fire in 1897. Chesley Smith collection.



Vintage autos mix with wagons on the square looking north in front of the Masonic Hall sometime during the 1940s.
Photo from the Marshall County Historical Museum.



The Frisco Station, built in 1927, beyond which to the east
(to the left in this picture), was a natural amphitheatre in
where convicted murderers once were executed on a gallows
specially erected for the purpose. Mr. Mickle wrote that, "All
executions were public and people came for forty miles and
camped out the night before."
Photo by Tony Howe.



Hammond Hall at Mississippi Industrial College,
now the Holly Springs Police Station.
Photo from Hubert McAlexander.

Chapter II. Surrounding Communities.

1.

HEARSE A LANDMARK OF OLD CHULAHOMA.

Ancient Vehicle Now Has Modern High Powered Truck for a Stall Mate.—
May Yet Make a Trip When Truck is on the Scrap Pile.

CHULAHOMA, Miss. (May 8, 1930).¹ In Bob Barnett's garage in Chulahoma stands a little hearse, and its stall mate is a big high-powered truck. Jim Tyson remarked the other afternoon while looking at them: "Centuries in accomplishment roll between them."

And so they do; but that little old hearse was built in Chulahoma, "before the war," and may be used yet, and will probably be capable of a trip when the big truck is on the scrap pile.

The moral has several angles: no shop now in Marshall County can turn out that little hearse today, much less duplicate its sturdy timber and workmanship. And it refutes the modern belief that antebellum citizens, leaving the plantation to the overseer and negroes, did nothing but make love, drink whiskey and drive their fine horses—though they did all of these things well.²

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (November 20, 1930).

² Two countians who cut quite a swath had ties to Chulahoma—William Henry Coxe and James Jarrell House—one a planter with large holdings near the village and the other, reared in the village, a blockade runner during the Civil War. On March 28, 1862, Mildred Strickland wrote to her husband of her resentment that "Jim House and Will H. Coxe go to dancing school. How I do hate House—that is all I get mad with you about [i.e., that Major Strickland went to the army while these men stayed home]." Some years before, Coxe's youngest brother, Robert (called Toby, fell madly in love with Sallie Wilson, the niece of Colonel John D. Martin and Major Andrew Lesper Martin. Though her family objected, she married him, November 20, 1855. Ten weeks later while visiting her sister Mary (Mrs. Charles) Bonner, she was overcome with foreboding and the Bonners begged her to stay with them. But the bride of sixteen returned to her husband at the new house he had built at the eastern

Speaking of whiskey: Chulahoma of the good old days had fourteen saloons—that sold whiskey—and whiskey that was good. How many, many poor fellows reading this story to-day will fold their copies of *The South Reporter* and place them under their pillows, hoping that sweet dreams may come.³

But Chulahoma had something else beside whiskey. It was strong in citizenship, men whose word was as good as their bond, men of strong convictions, with courage to back them up. The women were gentle, sweet, lovable, cultured, endowed with womanly grace; yet in emergency could show themselves capable, resourceful and courageous; the true complement of such men. The family names are closely linked with Marshall County history.

It was a solid and substantial community in a business way, and its merchants thrived. Travellers were entertained at a flourishing hotel.⁴

end of the Coxe's Galena Plantation. That night, in a drunken state, Toby killed her and then turned the gun upon himself. A few days later, two hearses drew up to Christ Church. Her coffin was taken inside, while her husband's remained at the street. When the mourners reached the cemetery, they found that her family had forbidden her burial on the Coxe lot. Hubert McAlexander records that Toby lies beneath a monument of Carrara marble, she in an unmarked grave, evidently on the Martin lot. See Miller-Smith, 49-50; *Southern Tapestry*, 28, 43, 64-65, 68. Another story is recorded in *It Happened Here*, 112-13.

³ National prohibition was then in effect.

⁴ The village of Chulahoma, fifteen miles southwest of Holly Springs on the present Mississippi Highway 4, in a particularly fertile part of the county, developed as a trading and social center. Two years after settlers entered the former Chickasaw lands, the opening of the Chulahoma Race Course was announced in

When the matter of selecting a county seat was up in the early days it was a strong competitor of Holly Springs, and the title to land donated for the square and courthouse still rests in the state.¹

In a cultural way there was a well patronized school for young ladies—with a boarding department—that supplied local needs and drew pupils from far.—Hamilton Institute.

Before and for years after the war its Masonic lodge was one of the brightest in the state, and Bowen is a name to conjure with in Mississippi Masonry.

LURE OF THE CITY

Strong competition of railroad towns, the lure of the cities and spirit of adventure gradually called away its young people, until now its inhabitants are few and there is only one descendant of the old regime left. Most of the old houses and stores have been torn down or destroyed by the elements.

One store still standing but now used as a garage, deserves mention—"Pope" McKie's. In the turbulent days of Republican rule Chulahoma was the storm center, and elections were held in McKie's, and he was the leader who saved that part of the county for Democracy. It was a man's work.

Chulahoma—beautiful Indian name for "red fox." It was a misnomer so far as the native fox went, for it is gray. Red fox were introduced by white men.

the *Marshall County Republican*, November 10, 1838. The town was laid around a central square, the site of which is bisected by the present highway. Buildings were widely scattered, and the business district covered a considerable area. In its heyday, the village contained a number of stores, a post office, tailor shop, undertaker, cotton gins, grist mills, churches, at least two physicians, a Masonic Lodge, several saloons, and the Coldwater Baptist Female Seminary. It continued to thrive up through the 1850s. The large cemetery, still extant, testifies to the community's size prior to the Civil War. Alexander Mosby Clayton, *Centennial Address on the History of Marshall County [delivered to mark the anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence]* (Washington, D. C.: Polkinhorn, 1880): 10; *Southern Tapestry*, 38, 40.

¹ Calhoun City is another North Mississippi community with a square that was prepared for a courthouse that was never built.

But red or gray Reynard had a strong appeal to the red-blooded sportsmen who literally followed the hounds. The late Joseph E. Dean, father of Mayor C. N. Dean, who moved from that neighborhood to Holly Springs, told of a fellow-sportsman who could light his pipe while riding after the hounds in full cry.

R. J. Barnett of Chulahoma is representative of the present and one of Marshall County's leading businessmen. While appreciating the history of his adopted home he embodies the integrity at his predecessors applied to modern methods.

The trip to Chulahoma a few afternoons ago carries out the comparison of the hearse and the truck. Leaving Holly Springs at 5 p.m. in Jim Tyson's car over modern roads, with a long stop in Chulahoma, back by Marianna and home by 7:20. It used to be a day's work for a good team.

2.

ONCE FAMED SCHOOL WAS IN CHULAHOMA.**Old Semi-Monthly Report Recalls Memories of
Pretentious Village in the Days before the Civil War.**

CHULAHOMA, Miss. (undated article). It will be news to many people of this generation, even in Marshall County, that Chulahoma once boasted a school for young ladies with a roll of several hundred students—the Baptist Female Seminary.

Chulahoma—the Indian name for Red Fox—was a pretentious village in the old days before the Civil War, surrounded by prosperous plantations. Planters in Marshall County were ambitious for good school advantages for their children, and especially for their daughters, and this demand called into being good schools all over the county, which drew patronage from other parts of the state.

Some of them were: St. Thomas Hall and Chalmers Institute for boys, and Holly Springs Institute and Franklin Female College for girls, in Holly Springs; Sylvestria Academy near Hudsonville; Marshall Institute near Mt. Pleasant¹ and a school connected with the old Episcopal Church at Early Grove;² Byhalia Institute and the Seminary at Chulahoma. It is the latter institution which prompts this story.

Mrs. Lucy E. Jobe, who was born near Chulahoma but now lives on Route 4, Byhalia,

¹ Mt. Pleasant, located on U. S. Highway 72 in the northwest part of the county, is said to date from the 1830s, when several pioneer families camped on a hill thirteen miles north of Holly Springs. They called the spot Pleasant Mountain. In 1855, there were two schools: a female academy, probably burned in the Civil War, and the male academy, which was razed sometime later; see photos in *Southern Tapestry*, 40-42.

² The community is located in the northeast corner of Marshall County, three miles north of Slayden, near the Tennessee line. The community was centered around St. John's Episcopal Church and Wilson Hall, a brick two-story building with a school on the lower floor and a Masonic lodge above. *Southern Tapestry*, 40-42.

brought to *The South Reporter* office Saturday a time worn semi-monthly school report given her mother, who was then Miss Elizabeth Wall, by the Baptist Female Seminary of Chulahoma, and was for April and May 1853. Her record was good.

Three Wall brothers came from North Carolina and settled in the southern part of Marshall County—Wall Hill was named for Billie Wall and located on his land.

The Baptist Female Seminary was conducted by Joseph R. Hamilton, principal, under the auspices of the Coldwater Baptist Association. He and his able faculty were from Ohio.

The front page of the report shows a large cut of the building and grounds. The building was a large two-story brick affair, capable of housing a large number of students. Mrs. M. O. Beal of Chulahoma now owns the old square piano that belonged to the seminary, and it is still in use.

These reports were printed by the "Eagle and Enquirer Steam Press Print," of Memphis. *The Memphis Eagle Enquirer* was a paper of considerable importance in this section in those days.

It is a compliment to these old type foundries that modern foundries are today reproducing shaded type such as was used on this old school report.

The Federal armies used the seminary for a hospital for a time during the Civil War and it suffered so from the ravages of war that no effort was made to revive it after hostilities ended and the building was dismantled and the brick sold.

This seminary numbered among its students the maternal ancestry of many families still resi-

dent in Marshall County or in adjacent states—the Walls, Alexanders, Coxes, McKies, Lucases, McAuleys, Harmons and Falkners. The sisters of the late Sam Pryor were educated there.

The Chulahoma of those days was an aggressive rival of its "seaport," Wyatte, the latter being located at the head of navigation on the Tallahatchie River. That may be news to some people—steamboats on the Tallahatchie, touching at a Marshall County landing.¹

¹ Small steamers and keelboats, several capable of carrying a thousand bales of cotton, navigated the upper reaches of the Yazoo and its tributaries during the four or five months of the year when water levels were reasonably high. During times of very high water these could come as far as the village of Wyatt, named for Wyatt C. Mitchell, one of the major land speculators in North Mississippi. The river landing was located a mile below the Marshall County line in Lafayette County. As early as 1835, Wyatt's dirt streets were crowded with wagons full of cotton and merchandise. In the height of Wyatt's prosperity, five steamboats called at its wharves, so that by 1842, the crop handled there was 10,000 bales. Three years later the total was 25,000—this despite very high rates for river transportation. During the prosperous 1830s, the town is said to have had fourteen stores, one of the largest hotels in northern Mississippi, and a small factory for manufacturing cotton gins. Samuel Ramsey McAlexander, who built the first tavern in Holly Springs was the proprietor of the Wyatt Hotel—described as "the principal tavern of the town on the stage road leading from Holly Springs to Oxford and Coffeeville, where he respectfully solicits a share of public patronage." McAlexander assured patrons that "His house will be in good repair, and is provided with comfortable private rooms for families. His TABLE shall be equal to any in the country, and supplied with the best the market will afford. His STABLES shall be supplied with the best of provender and well attended. He...flatters himself...from his experience in business that he can render general satisfaction." *Marshall County Republican* (June 15, 1839). A bridge was built over the Tallahatchie and a turnpike constructed over the river swamp lands. The coming of the railroad in the 1850s spelled the end of the community's prosperity. Marshall County planter Volney Peel was said to have lost a large part of his fortune investing in lots at Wyatt and building houses upon them. James H. Stone, "The Economic Development of Holly Springs During the 1840s," *Journal of Mississippi History* 32 (1970): 351-52; See Franklin L. Riley, "Extinct Towns in Mississippi," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society* 5 (1902): 311-83; John Hebron Moore, *The Emergence of the Cotton Kingdom in the Old Southwest* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988): 162, 182; *Southern Tapestry*, 16, 26-27.

Chulahoma even broke a lance with Holly Springs in the joust for the county seat.

Another thing that helped put Chulahoma on the map was that at one time it was the highest spot in Mississippi Masonry, had the brightest Masonic lodge in the state and furnished a grand master to the grand lodge.

It was Will Henry Coxe, a wealthy planter of the Chulahoma neighborhood, who built for his town house one of the show places of North Mississippi of that day. It is located in Holly Springs on Salem Street and is now owned and occupied by Walter G. Thompson.²

Like many of the urban houses of those days the place covered considerable acreage, and the front yard of several acres, was adorned with many large native forest trees and the landscape gardener's skill was also invoked.

The house and large stable were lighted by gas, very unusual then, and the house boasted the only bathroom in town equipped with running water.

² To-day's "Airliewood."

3.

OLD SALEM, LONG AGO, AN IMPORTANT CENTER.

Plantation Homes grouped around Old St. Andrews Episcopal Church
One of the Best Neighborhoods in North Mississippi before the Civil War.

SALEM, Miss. (September 4, 1930).¹ Grouped around old St. Andrew's Episcopal Church near Old Salem, in what is now Benton County but was then a part of Marshall County,² was one of the best neighborhoods in North Mississippi in the days before the War of the Sixties.³

The families who lived in it were mostly Whig in politics; Episcopalian in religion and many came from Virginia. The fame of the neighborhood spread afar and Jefferson Davis, who was later to be president of the Confederacy, visited it with a view of buying the plantation of Dr. Frank W. Dancy, who was moving to Mem-

phis, and later to Holly Springs. Mr. Davis did not buy.⁴

No pretentious houses were built in the neighborhood, the peak of prosperity out of which such things would come being arrested by the war. Judge A. M. Clayton's "Woodcote," and Mr. Govan's "Snowden" [or "Snowdoun"] nearer approached such types.

The homes were comfortable, however and the hospitality characteristic of the time was dispensed. The Hull, Clayton and Thomas planta-

¹ This article was reprinted in abridged form in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (November 20, 1930).

² Marshall County, once among the state's largest in both area, population, and income, was named for the revered chief justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, John Marshall (1755-1835), who died as the county lines were being drawn in the Chickasaw Cession territory in preparation for the region's opening to white settlers.

³ One of the important early settlements in the Chickasaw cession was the village of Salem just across the original border between Marshall and Tippah Counties. Located three miles west of the present community of Ashland, Salem attracted settlers because of the rich surrounding farmland and its proximity to a stagecoach line. In 1839, a Presbyterian congregation there shared their building with the Episcopalians until they completed their church. By some accounts, Salem had a population of two hundred, two hotels, several stores, and an academy for boys and girls. It had close ties to Holly Springs and Marshall County. To this day, the highway leading east out of Holly Springs is called Salem Avenue. See Dunbar Rowland, ed., *Mississippi, Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form*, 3 vols. (Atlanta: Southern Historical Publishing Assoc., 1907), 2:591; *Southern Tapestry*, 26-27. Because of Davis's interest in the area, the highway now designated as Mississippi State Highway 7 running through Marshall County from the Tennessee line to Oxford and Grenada, was originally known as the "Jefferson Davis Highway."

⁴ The Dancys lived in a cottage, erected in 1839, on the southwest corner of East College Avenue and North Walthall Street. It originally had two rooms. It was from this house that Dr. Dancy's fourteen-year-old son Henry ran off to join the Confederate army at Richmond. Taken ill there, his case was reported to Jefferson Davis, a personal friend of Dr. Dancy, who lectured the boy mildly, gave him money, and sent him home. F. W. Dancy was a member of the first Mississippi State Board of Health, and also, in 1877, of the first Marshall County Medical Board. He was on the medical board that wanted to quarantine Holly Springs when yellow fever broke out in other Southern towns, but the resolution was voted down by the mayor and aldermen with disastrous results. Later owned by the R. A. McDermotts, the home was remodeled and enlarged in the 1920s, at which time the present porch, captain's walk and gables were added. It is currently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chesterfield Brown.

⁵ The Govans, whose plantation "Snowdoun" lay in the northeast part of the county, were a family of social standing. Andrew Robinson Govan, who had represented North Carolina in Congress, came to Marshall County during the early days of white settlement. His wife, Mary Pugh Jones Govan, was an heiress. Their children married well. Eaton Pugh Govan married Miss Julia Hawks, the daughter of the Rev. Francis L. Hawks, an early rector of Christ Church, and Daniel Chevillette Govan took as his wife the Miss Mary F. Otey, daughter of the Rt. Rev. James H. Otey, Episcopal bishop of Tennessee. Beautiful Miss Sallie Govan married Christopher Haynes Mott, who was appointed special U. S. commissioner to California. *Southern Tapestry*, 43-45.

tions are still possessed by their descendants, though none live on them.

Many of the plantations bore names, and were settled in 1836 or a little later. "The Lodge" was the first house built and lodged the other families of the Hulls until they could buy and built—hence its name. It was situated midway between Hudsonville and Lamar and was the western boundary of the neighborhood. Here lived Charles Thomas and his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Hull Thomas.

Mr. Thomas was a courtly gentleman of the old school, a lawyer, and was active in public affairs of the state, though he did not aspire to office beyond some service in the state legislature.

His office was in Holly Springs and he drove to town, later using the railroad. He was associated with Judge J. W. C. Watson in the practice of law, and I think with Judge J. W. Clapp.

JUDGE CLAYTON'S HOME BURNED

A mile from "The Lodge" was "Woodcote," the home of Judge A. M. Clayton, also a lawyer and planter, a scholarly man who had accumulated a good library and papers of historical worth. Shortly after his death in 1890 the house was destroyed with all of its contents by fire, of unknown origin. The first house was burned during the war.

He possessed a large landed estate in Marshall County, and a plantation in Tunica County on which Clayton is situated. He lived for a time in Holly Springs and practiced law and was senior warden of the young parish of Christ Church. He served several terms on the state supreme bench, retiring in 1850, serving the last term with Judges William M. Sharkey and C. P. Smith, who became chief justices.¹

¹ Alexander Mosby Clayton (1801-1889), was one of the county's most influential citizens. Born in Virginia, he read law at Lynchburg and was admitted to the bar in 1823. In 1836, President Andrew Jackson appointed him Federal judge for the Arkansas Territory, and later he moved to Marshall County and practiced law in Holly Springs. In 1842, he was appointed to the Mississippi Supreme Court where he served eight years and was acclaimed a master of jurisprudence. After appointment as American consul to Havana (1853), he became active in the movements that

"Greenwood" might be called the fountainhead of the Hull family in North Mississippi. Here came Mrs. [Elizabeth Herndon] Hull, a widow from Spotsylvania, Va., near Fredericksburg, and her sons and daughters and their families composed no small part of the neighborhood, and her descendants were to enrich the citizenship of Holly Springs and Memphis.

In Holly Springs, her son John Hull, father of the late Brodie S. Hull, and her grandsons Brodie S., William, Edward H. and James M. Crump. In Memphis, Congressman Edward Hull Crump, Frank M. and Dabney H. Crump and John D. Martin; and also William Crump of Greenville, Miss., and D. Minor Mickle of Hong Kong-Singapore, in the Far East.

"Greenwood" was destroyed by fire August 8, 1930. It is coincidence that the issue of August 14 carrying the story told in "Forty Years Ago in Holly Springs" of the death of William Hull, owner and last of the original family.²

Andrew Govan of "Snowden" owned a princely estate in Marshall and Tippah Counties, and a large acreage in Grenada County. He maintained an establishment in keeping with his estate.

His wife, Mrs. Mary Pugh [Jones] Govan, was one of the loveliest old ladies I ever knew, beautiful in face and character to the end. Their descendants took high rank in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee, notably Gen. Daniel Govan, who was a major general in the Confederate army, and filled a high place in public life in Arkansas; and Col. George M. Govan of McComb, Miss., who was Secretary of State in Mis-

led to the secession of the Southern states. With L. Q. C. Lamar, he drew up the state's secession ordinances. He was a founder of the University of Mississippi, and was a trustee of that institution for much of his adult life, and when in his eighties, proposed, advocated, and secured the admission of women (1882). The university awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1859. See photos and information in *Memoirs of Mississippi*, 1:556-57; Dunbar Rowland, ed., *History of Mississippi: The Heart of the South*, 4 vols. (Chicago-Jackson: S. J. Clarke, 1925), 1:789. Hamilton, 84-94; *It Happened Here*, 108; and *Southern Tapestry*, 23, 48, 49, 107.

² William Hull, son of Brodie Strachan Hull and Elizabeth Herndon, was born in Virginia in 1829. He married Miss Mary Clayton, daughter of A. M. Clayton. When Hull died he owned 3,200 acres.

³ Now Benton County.

sissippi.¹ The Govans have given a good account of themselves from Memphis to Helena.

PROMINENT AMONG THE PLANTERS

Dr. Frank W. Dancy was a planter and the beloved physician of the neighborhood for awhile, later going to Holly Springs where his son Henry S. Dancy was born. He was the most courtly gentleman I ever knew; his face bore a striking resemblance to that of George Washington.

Melchizedek Robinson was another planter in the neighborhood. Mrs. S. W. Mullins of Holly Springs is his granddaughter, and her father, James Robinson, was one of the most popular young men of the neighborhood. He entered railroading and was one of the first conductors of Mississippi Central Road, now the Illinois Central. His record was that he never killed, or possibly maimed, a passenger or lost a piece of baggage—and railroading was very hazardous then.

Gov. Joseph Matthews of this neighborhood was the only governor Marshall County has furnished Mississippi. He was a colorful statesman, and his ability was shown in landing the office in the face of a strong Whig opposition. His grandson, E. A. C. Davis lives now in Memphis.²

Dabney Minor and his wife Jane Hull Minor lived at Woodlawn, and their only child was the late Mrs. Belton Mickle.

Mr. Minor was not so much of a money maker, but he loved farming and Woodlawn plantation might be called a forerunner of the modern experiment station. He believed a farmer should

¹ At one time George M. Govan lived in the old Herr Place at the southeast corner of East College Avenue and Chesterman Street.

² Joseph W. Matthews (1812-1862), was elected governor in 1847. A surveyor and land speculator, he came to Marshall County when the Chickasaw lands were opened for white settlement. He also served in the Mexican war. At the time he was elected governor, he resided in Holly Springs in the house located at 295 West Chulahoma Avenue, presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Farris. The home, originally a log dogtrot house, erected in 1836, has been much remodeled and enlarged. Matthews farmed an extensive plantation near Salem, to which he retired after his service in Jackson. A Democrat, he defeated another Marshall Countian, General Alexander B. Bradford, a Whig. Matthews is buried in a lonely grave near the site of the now-extinct village. *Southern Tapestry*, 29; see photo, p. 27.

live on his farm and practiced diversification, and even planted flax from which the household linen was spun. It is doubtful if any living ever saw a stalk of flax grow in Marshall County.

His house was comfortable not pretentious, but the plantation with its front yard, gardens, orchards and fields was the most picturesque and beautiful of them all. Mr. Minor was the pillar of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, and his home was practically the rectory for the minister when he filled his appointments.³

³ After the coming of the railroad, St. Andrew's Church moved to Lamar in 1876, where it survived until 1895. See "Register of Extinct Churches and Their Clergy," *The Episcopal Church in Mississippi, 1763-1992* (Jackson: Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, 1992): 358.

4.

ASHLAND OF LONG AGO OUTLINED IN *BENTON COUNTY ARGUS* OF 1874.

ASHLAND, Miss. (December 15, 1932). The Ashland¹ of long ago is outlined in *The Benton County Argus* of 1874, loaned me by my friend W. F. Stroupe.

The Argus, of Wednesday, August 25, 1874, was a four-page, seven-column home-print paper Vol. 3, No. 2. It was owned by Benjamin Bright, whom old-timers will readily recall—one of those interesting characters, so numerous in those days. I believe he later moved to Henderson, Tenn., and established *The New Era*.

Benton County was carved out of Marshall, Tippah and Union Counties shortly after the War Between the States, and while Ashland is in former Tippah territory the relations between the counties has been so close and so many good citizens of Holly Springs have been drawn from that section, that no difference is felt here.

Benton Co. Directory—J. J. Hicks, sheriff; J. R. Roberts, James Snodgrass, L. W. Brown, W. S. Crump, J. W. Winborn, and J. J. Johnson, deputies; R. J. Sharp, treasurer; B. F. Embrey, assessor; C. T. Blackley, surveyor; Wm. Ayres, circuit clerk; Allen Talbot, chancery clerk; Wm. M. Abernathy, county administrator. Allen Talbot, I believe lived in Holly Springs before that, and worked in the J. H. Athey Drug Store—now L. H. Dancy.

Supervisors—J. H. Morgan, L. C. Luna, A. J. Jordan, R. W. Hudspeth, W. F. J. Calahan.

D. W. McKenzie was mayor, Frank Swan marshal, and B. T. Kimbrough, R. W. Winborn, C. F. Robinson, J. T. Boyd, and D. B. McKenzie, aldermen.

¹ Ashland was established in 1870, shortly after the county was formed. The name was suggested by Captain James Hamer for the home of Henry Clay in Kentucky.

J. M. McDonald, general merchant, and J. W. Duke, well boring and curbing were the only Ashland advertisers except professional cards.

Law cards—Kimbrough & Abernathy of Ashland, Harris & Harris (Thos. W., of Holly Springs and T. M., of Ashland), Falconer & Falconer (Howard and Kinloch) of Holly Springs. Col. Thos. W. Harris was Harris Gholson's grandfather.²

Dr. Frank Ferrell of Ashland, physician and surgeon, has a card, as has Dr. R. N. Lawrence, dentist, of Holly Springs.

The Rev. H. R. Caldwell, pastor of the Methodist Church, announces appointments, also the Reverend S. Lambert, Presbyterian, and the Rev. A. G. Parrott, Methodist. Each gave one Sunday a month to Ashland.³

Holly Springs advertisers were well-represented—Scruggs, Hull & Finley; Crump & Co., J. H. Athey, Dr. P. A. Willis, J. G. Leach and Mrs. E. Voorhees (millinery).

Mrs. M. A. Bright, wife of the editor, died August 19.

L. R. Bird and Miss S. F. Dover were married August 19, the Rev. H. R. Caldwell officiating.

W. H. B. Harris and Miss S. E. Orman were married August 24 at the residence of Z. T. Leopard; Samuel Scott, J. P., officiating.

² Colonel Thomas W. and Sue Watson Harris lived on Chulahoma Avenue, on the site of the house built by Judge and Mrs. L. A. Smith Jr. Mrs. Harris was the niece of Judge and Mrs. J. W. C. Watson.

³ It was common practice in those days for ministers of the town churches to give a Sunday each month to country parishes. Many small congregations functioned as "union churches," all coming to hear the preachers of whatever denomination happened to be available on a given day.

Michigan City was then called Davis' Mill, and J. A. Thomas of that neighborhood had sold the first new bale of cotton for Benton County to

Morton & Bro. of LaGrange, Tenn., for 25 cents a pound.

5.

A LEAF OF BYHALIA'S INTERESTING HISTORY.

Old Waverly Institute Building, Now Replaced by Modern, Handsome School Building, the Alma Mater of Some of that City's Leading Men.

BYHALIA, Miss. (April 16, 1931). A ride with Jim Tyson to Chulahoma early a year ago started all of these stories I have been writing, and in some respects I like that Chulahoma one the best.

I started out again with Jim Sunday afternoon bound, so far as I knew, for an unknown port, which proved to be a pop call at Byhalia.¹

It had been some time since I had a daylight view of Byhalia, I mean back from the railroad, and I felt lost in a way.² Jim remarked that he had played over that ground when a boy and was staying with his Uncle Tom Ingram to go to school at Waverly Institute.

Why, I had visited Waverly Institute. "Well, there is where it used to stand." I had found myself, but it was back in the late eighties, when I was editor of *The Reporter* and "feeling my oats," and spent a glorious day in Byhalia—the biggest day in a school commencement way,

¹ Located seven miles northwest of Red Banks on U. S. Highway 78, Byhalia was first known as Farmington, a hamlet that grew up as early as 1838 around a Methodist Church of the same name on the Pigeon Roost Road. A post office established there in 1842 was named Oak Ridge, until 1846, when it was changed to Byhalia, which was a corruption of the Chickasaw for "white oak," after the Byhalia Creek which runs nearby. "George Moreland Tells of Visit to Byhalia," *Holly Springs South Reporter* (January 3, 1929); *Southern Tapestry*, 82-83; see photos, pp. 88-89.

² It was not until after World War II that autos came to be owned by virtually every household in this part of Mississippi, and Mr. Mickle, like many of his generation, did not possess one. Consequently, he was used to passing through Byhalia on the train, en route to and from Memphis. Sunday afternoon drives at the invitation of friends who had a car were great social occasions—much looked forward to by older folks who did not have "wheels." Some ministers, of course, condemned the practice as a desecration of the Sabbath.

probably, Byhalia ever had, and wrote it up for my paper.

Waverly Institute was a creditable building, but its glory lay in the magnificent grove of forest trees—I do wish they had left some of them. In its place is a modern, handsome school building, but—well, the finest car can't give the soul of an old-timer the thrill that can a handsome horse stepping out. But the horse can't get you anywhere now. It was the glamour which hung around the old days—the new days, however, are better in many ways.

Prof. and Mrs. A. M. Moore were conducting Waverly Institute then, and had invited Gen. A. M. West of Holly Springs to speak in the morning and Col. Keating, editor of *The Memphis Appeal*, at night. Both chose the same subject—Woman's Rights—but from different viewpoints.

Gen. West held that woman was best in the home on her pedestal. Col. Keating was for giving women equal political and business rights. But he would probably have stood with Gen. West if he could have visioned the way woman has grabbed hook, line and sinker as to other rights.³

Underwood of *The Appeal*, star reporter of his time had come to report the evening's program. He and I were billeted in the hospitable

³ Although by virtue of the change in the U. S. constitution Mississippi women could vote after 1920, it was not until 1984 that Mississippi officially ratified the Nineteenth Amendment. General West's friend, Winfield Scott Featherston held similar views. He wrote that he wanted woman "to stay where God Almighty had placed her—the queen of the home, the molder of character, with all of her high privileges and great responsibilities." *Jackson Clarion-Ledger* (September 13, 1890). See A. Elizabeth Taylor, "The Woman Suffrage Movement in Mississippi, 1890-1920," *Journal of Mississippi History* (February 1968): 1-34.

home of Mr. Eddins, father of John M. Eddins, for supper, and I spent the night with Marcus Herring, editor of *The Byhalia Journal*, over the shop.

Several years later Underwood, still on *The Appeal*, came to Holly Springs with W. A. Collier when the famous Carmack-Collier duel didn't come off.

Waverly Institute was even then an old school having been founded sometime before the war, and was the alma mater of some of Byhalia's leaders of today. That particular commencement day was almost a town affair.

Jim Tyson and I drove on south and stopped at Joe Ingram's house. Nobody was at home, but if Joe reads this he will know who drank his buttermilk.¹

Jim said the big drainage canal was Byhalia Creek. Who remembers when big bass could be caught where the creek runs under the railroad? Well, the railroad was built in 1884, and it was about then.

Returning we had to stop for a wonderful plant Miss Susie Davis was to send Mrs. Kate Kelley—the *San Seviri*—and had an opportunity to inspect Miss Davis' greenhouse and plants. She has built up a good business.

¹ It has been well within the lifetime of the generation of those who will read this collection that citizens in Holly Springs and Marshall County have begun locking their doors. It was never done in times past.

6.

OLD TUCKER INSTITUTE BUILDING IS BURNED.

Historic Structure in Byhalia Destroyed by Fire Started by Fireworks
Handled by Children, it is Believed.—Prominent Landmark.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (January 7, 1932). The old Tucker Institute building in Byhalia was destroyed by fire Monday evening about 6 o'clock with a loss of about \$5,000.

Fireworks handled by children caused the fire, it is believed.

The building had been used as a residence since 1906 when the school was discontinued. It was a historic building of the postwar period, and was a prominent landmark on the right to westbound railroad passengers as they entered town.

Miss Kate Doolin of Kentucky entered a Roman Catholic convent at Nazareth, Ky., the parent institution of Bethlehem Academy in Holly Springs, and she was sent here.

Upon the completion of her novitiate she decided not to take the vows perpetual and returned to the world.

She taught school at Byhalia, and married Capt. John Tucker, who had been a captain in the Confederate contingent of Virginia troops.

They established Tucker Institute, and some of the leading citizens of Byhalia and vicinity, and other parts of the county are numbered among its alumni. Both Capt. and Mrs. Tucker have passed into the beyond.

Mrs. Tucker was an able teacher, and as Jim Ingram of Byhalia, an alumnus of Tucker Institute, expressed it Tuesday, "she still lives in the lives of her pupils."¹

Great was the rivalry between Tucker Institute and its antebellum rival, Waverly Institute, a

rivalry that lingers in a friendly way in the bosoms of the alumni of each.

The coming of Byhalia High School² put a period to the history of both institutions. The property of Waverly Institute was purchased by the town authorities, the old frame structure razed and a modern school building erected. Tucker Institute became a residence.

¹ See *Memoirs of Mississippi*; reprinted in *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 34-35.

² In 1907. See *Southern Tapestry*, 84.

7.

THEATER ATTRACTIONS OF MEMPHIS IN 1868.

Holly Springs Reporter is Quoted Twice in Copy of *Daily Theatrical Bulletin* of Sixty-Four Years Ago.—Diversification of Crops.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (August 4, 1932). *The Theatrical Bulletin*, Vol. 3, No. 141, is a Memphis daily paper, two page, five columns, a copy of which Bunk Jones loaned me along with the old copies of *The Reporter* and *The South*. Date: Wednesday evening, March 4, 1868.

There were only two theaters, I believe, in Memphis in those days. The New Memphis Theater, for decent folks, which presented attractions ranging from Shakespeare to negro minstrels. It was located on the north side of Jefferson, I believe between Second and Third.

The other was the Washington Street Theater, northwest corner of Washington and Main, for men only, and consequently its news was unprintable.¹

There was a "hot one" on though, for those days, at the New Memphis that evening—*The Black Crook*—which was shocking to our grandmothers, who admitted in an apologetic way that they had seen it; but see it many of them did. *The Black Crook* showed for a week. Special scenery was carried and the "Great Parisienne Ballet Troupe" was a strong feature.

The New Memphis Theater, I believe, was built before the Civil War and continued until the nineties, if I remember right. Prices of admission were reasonable, orchestra chairs \$1.50; dress circle and parquette \$1.00, family circle .50, gallery 50 cents.

¹ Evangelical Protestants had long condemned theatrical performances both because of the "deceit" upon which acting is based, as well as the theatre's supposed association with illicit behavior, including rowdiness, drunkenness, and the proximity of immoral women.

BLACK CROOK SUCCESSFUL

The Black Crook seems to have played to good business, for *The Bulletin* says editorially: "The large accessions from the country keep the audience up to the mark numerically desired by the management.²

"Last night our 'country cousins'—we use the phrase because it is so original—from Brownsville and way points were out in full strength. The house was well filled, and the performance proved successful as usual.

"Tonight another *Black Crook* excursion train will be run over a portion of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, and tomorrow night a delegation of the Mississippi belles and beaux may be anticipated via the Mississippi & Tennessee Railroad."

The Memphis & Charleston Road is now a part of the Southern System, by Grand Junction, and Holly Springs and Marshall County doubtless sent large delegations by that road.³

The Memphis & Tennessee Road extended from Grenada to Memphis, and is now part of the main line of the Illinois Central Road.

² Memphis, some 45 miles from Holly Springs by rail, was the business and cultural center for the whole region. In those days, of course, the whole city was centered in the area known to current readers as "downtown," and consequently because of its steady eastward growth, the Bluff City is miles closer to Marshall Countians than it once was.

³ Memphis residents also came out to Marshall County. *The Memphis Commercial Appeal* reported on July 27, 1887, that "The ladies of Red Banks, Marshall County, Miss., will give a barbecue and ice cream supper on the 4th of August for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church. An excursion train will leave Memphis on the evening of the 4th at 6:00 p.m. to return that night."

The New Memphis Theater and *The Black Crook's* program and notice occupy a third of the column space of *The Theatrical Bulletin*, and advertisements use a column and a half. Miscellaneous matter and some news take up the rest of it. Mississippi figures a bit.

"The Israelites of Vicksburg are raising funds to purchase ground and erect a house of worship in that city."¹

DIVERSIFICATION OF CROPS

The Holly Springs Reporter is quoted twice:

"*The Holly Springs Reporter* learns from a number of planters that they will plant less cotton and more corn the present year. It is true that most of the planters will cultivate a small amount of cotton but the crop of grain will be doubled. They are determined for the future to try and live as independently of other states and counties as possible."²

"Those that have the means are looking around for fine stock and machinery to farm with; and the people of Missouri and Kentucky need not be surprised to see, in a few years, large droves of horses, mules, hogs and cattle driven up there for market."

And here is another item:

"Several acres in Marshall County, Miss., will be planted in the castor bean this year. *The Reporter* says that before the war the bean was raised successfully and profitably in Pontotoc County, and a mill was established from which a large supply of cold-pressed castor oil was furnished."³

"*The Jackson* (Miss.) *Clarion* now publishes at noon instead of in the morning."

JACKSON CLARION A WEEKLY

When I first remember *The Clarion* it was a weekly paper, and I suppose was then. At first *The Holly Springs Reporter* and *South* were printed at night and delivered by carriers next morning before breakfast. It was a naïve gesture at being a "morning paper."

"*The Enterprise* (Miss.) *Star* says that a Loyal League⁴ swindler, named Alex Rogers, was recently captured at Shubuta in the act of making loyal speeches and collecting one dollar a head of the negroes of that place. He is now in the Quitman jail."

Enterprise was the old hometown of the late Tom Kelly.

Whitmore & Co., were owners of *The Theatrical Bulletin*, and also, I believe, owners of *The Public Ledger*, a Memphis evening paper, published at 13 Madison Street.

The Memphis Avalanche, a morning paper, was published somewhere about that location, too. *The Avalanche* was absorbed by *The Appeal*, which became *The Appeal-Avalanche*; and it in turn was absorbed by *The Morning Commercial*, and became the present *Commercial Appeal*.

The late Col. F. A. Tyler was for several years editor and part owner of *The Public Ledger*. He sold his interest and came to Holly Springs in 1877 and bought *The South*.

¹ The Vicksburg temple was built and served for many years until the town's Jewish population died away. It has now been dismantled and reconstructed at the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience near Utica, Miss.

² See photos of cotton production in Marshall County, Miller-Smith, 16-22.

³ Castor oil, along with corn whiskey, probably furnished the two chief medicinal ingredients of the era.

⁴ Loyal Leagues were organized by the Reconstruction authorities to instruct the freed slaves in the duties of citizenship.

8.

OLD P. O. DIRECTORY A SOURCE OF HISTORY.

Little Book Published in 1842 Did Not List Any Post Offices Existing Then
At Aberdeen, Corinth, Tupelo, West Point, or Holly Springs.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (June 18, 1931).¹
Where was the post office in Holly Springs located in 1842?

The postmaster was William E. Williams.

I am under obligation to my friend Bernard B. Brown for the loan of an old post office directory that gives the information. It is entitled: "Table of Post Offices in the United States on the 31st of January 1842."

It contrasts sharply present history and geography; for example Aberdeen, Corinth, Tupelo, West Point; flourishing towns now, are not listed. Pontotoc is credited to Monroe County, while New Albany is in Pontotoc County.

Pontotoc is about the oldest town in North Mississippi, and in the thirties the land office and courts for this section were there. Cornersville was then in Lafayette County,² as was Wyatte. The latter had about five hundred population and was head of navigation on the Tallahatchie River.

In Marshall County, Bethlehem, Chulahoma, Tallaloosa, Red Banks and Byhalia were not listed. What were you doin' then, John Eddins, that you didn't get Byhalia on the map?

Post Offices were doubtless few and far apart. Unless there were post offices, now forgotten, the country from Michigan City to Byhalia must have been served by Collierville and LaGrange, just over the Tennessee line, nearer

this way by Holly Springs. Wyatte and Waterford probably took care of the southern part of the county.

Within my memory Col. A. J. Wooten living ten or twelve miles southwest of here, with his neighbors got their mail at Holly Springs.³

Tallaloosa,⁴ a flourishing village out towards Marianna, is not listed, though it was a strong competitor it is said with Holly Springs for the county seat. Like old Salem, not a trace of it remains.⁵

Some of the northern and eastern parts of the county were served by Lamar,⁶ now in Benton

³ The Wootens had a plantation near Tallaloosa. See *Southern Tapestry*, 25.

⁴ The name is said to be a Chickasaw word meaning "black rock." The community was located eight miles west of Holly Springs. See *Southern Tapestry*, 25-26.

⁵ In 1937, a dogtrot log cabin from pioneer days, known as the Best Place, was purchased and restored by Mrs. Irene Walter Johnson, widow of industrialist Oscar Johnson of Red Banks, Holly Springs and St. Louis, and her sisters. They named the cottage "Tallaloosa," in commemoration of the settlement that once flourished nearby. See Thomas C. Stewart, "Tallaloosa," *Holly Springs South Reporter* (April 1987); Mary Wallace Crocker, *Historic Architecture in Mississippi* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1973): 157. It remains one of the few extant examples of an early settler's cabin of the 1830s. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 342-43. The property has recently been acquired by the S. B. Gresham family of Holly Springs.

⁶ The village of Lamar, located fourteen miles northeast of Holly Springs on Mississippi Highway 7, was within the original bounds of Marshall County. A. M. Clayton, a famous citizen whose plantation lay nearby, stated that the village was founded by Spearman Holland and named for M. B. Lamar, president of the Republic of Texas (1838-1841), it was once the site of a thriving school and is still home to a Presbyterian congregation that traces its roots to 1847. The village was originally located about one and a half

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² Cornersville, located on an old Indian trail, is presently located in the southeast corner of the county. The community acquired its name because of its location at the junction of four counties: Marshall, Tippah, Pontotoc, and Lafayette. Later the counties were reduced to three; Union, Marshall, and Benton.

County, and Salem, in Tippah County (the site is now in Benton County). Salem was a good-sized village with hotel and stores and a stage stand, and had Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges.

I have before mentioned that the late Dr. Moormon and his degree team instituted Holly Springs Lodge No. 35, I. O. O. F. [International Order of Odd Fellows], which is still going strong.

My maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dabney Minor, first got their mail at Salem, as probably did the Hulls, Govans, Robinsons, Hardaways, Gov. Matthews and others of the neighborhood. I have some letters directed to Salem and later some to Lamar.

MAILS THEN BY STAGE COACH

Mails came by stage coach, and several years ago I wrote a story based on a Holly Springs newspaper of the forties in which bids were asked for carrying the mail by stage coach to Memphis via Collierville; and it was stipulated that the mail should leave Holly Springs not later than 5 a.m. and be delivered in Memphis¹ not later than 10 o'clock that night—there was a joyride for you.²

miles east of the present site, but moved when the railroad came in 1856. *Centennial Address*, 10; see *Southern Tapestry*, 107.

¹ From 1845 to 1860 Holly Springs was second only to Memphis in population and importance in the region. Here and in many other places Mr. Mickle refers to the important social and commercial ties existing between the cities.

² Old Hudsonville, one of the earliest settlements in the county, was located two miles west of the present village, at a spot nine miles northeast of Holly Springs. The town was incorporated in 1838, but lost its charter in 1844. After the coming of the railroad, the business of the town drifted to the nearest station, then called Scales Depot, and Old Hudsonville became known as Atway, with but a single store left to mark the site. The original community was on the Holly Springs-LaGrange Road that ran west of the present Highway 7. In pioneer days until the Civil War the road was the main route of north-south travel between Holly Springs and Middle Tennessee. Until the advent of the Mississippi Central Railroad, a stage line and mail route were operated over this famous old road. During the Civil War, movements of troops of both armies were almost a daily occurrence, and many cavalry engagements were fought along the road. By the war's end, all but five of the fifty plantations up and down the road had been broken up, the fences destroyed, houses burned, and the land left fallow to

Cities and towns have ever been the sport of lines of trade and transportation, and favored or ruined by their fluctuations. The coming of the Mississippi Central in 1856 found the flourishing villages of Waterford, Hudsonville, and Lamar situated each about a mile from the line. These communities were enterprising enough to move at once to the railroad, with more or less, however, of citizenship, business, and prestige.

The Hudsonville,³ for example, mentioned in the postal directory of 1842 is said to have had a population of between 200 and 300 people and a number of stores. The larger cemetery⁴ located some distance away from what is now known as Old Hudsonville Church,⁵ and its cemetery would indicate a populous community.

erode. Erosion which began during the war continued for three-quarters of a century, and the area never regained prominence as a planting community. See *Southern Tapestry*, 107; John K. Bettersworth, "The Home Front," 1861-1865," in Richard Aubrey McLemore, ed., *A History of Mississippi*, 2 vols. (Jackson: University & College Press of Mississippi, 1973), 1:510; *Civil War Women*, 127.

³ Hudsonville, located seven miles north of Holly Springs on Mississippi Highway 7, was named for John C. Hudson, a settler from Virginia, who bought large tracts of land in the community in 1836 and offered lots for sale. Fourteen houses were built within days after the lots were sold. The community was noted for a number of planters, including such names as Scales, Minor, Daniels, Woodson, Roberts, Kilpatrick, Means, Mahon, McFadyen, Wall, Holland, Gray, and Cottrell. During the Civil War, Federal soldiers burned all the buildings at Old Hudsonville that had not been razed, except for the Presbyterian Church. *Southern Tapestry*, 107; see photo, p. 166.

⁴ The original Hudsonville cemetery, located to the east of the present Atway Store, had more than one hundred grave markers. It has long been abandoned, and trees and undergrowth have taken over. Most of the tombs have weathered and inscriptions are no longer legible. Some of the names that could be deciphered were Means, Davis, Mahon, and Gray. The inscription on one reads: "General Hugh Means of the South Carolina Militia, Union District." [The stone actually marks the grave of Mrs. Hannah Means (d. 1838), wife of the late General Means of the Union District, South Carolina.] Bill Gurney, Bobby Mitchell, and David Pryor, *Cemeteries of Marshall County, Mississippi* (Ripley: Old Timer Press, 1983): 100.

⁵ A Presbyterian congregation was founded in February 1837 by the Rev. Daniel L. Gray, of South Carolina, who moved to the Hudsonville neighborhood with members of several allied families named Means, near relatives of his wife. A log church was constructed at a location just east of the present Atway Store, where the remnants of a cemetery may still be

Waterford was then located [east] of the creek, with a lot of stores, a church, a tavern and a stage coach stand. Robert McGowan, founder of the family in Marshall County, had a store; the forbears of the Westmorelands and Coopers were there.¹

Dr. [John] Oswald, father of the late John and Bland Oswald, and grandfather of Ernest, Clarence, and Jake Oswald, was a physician.

The late Dr. W. C. Warren, of near Meridian, graduated in 1854 in medicine in Philadelphia, was driving home from Louisville, Ky., and stopped to spend the night in Waterford, and was persuaded to remain.² Will Warren of Waterford and Jim Warren are his sons.

Church³ and stores were taken down and moved to the present site of Waterford when the railroad came in 1856. Only the cemetery remains of the old town.⁴

found. The present church, built of whip-sawn native pine, was erected on land given by William B. and Sophia Means. In an advertisement in *The Holly Springs Gazette* (November 14, 1846), the Hudsonville session called for bids or proposals for a frame building thirty-six by forty-six feet and sixteen feet from floor to ceiling. When built it was the most substantial rural church building in the county, and it remains today one of the most interesting. The building and cemetery—the oldest surviving church out in Marshall County, have been designated a National Presbyterian Historic Landmark. See information and photos in *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 43-47, 120-27, 233-37, 425-33; *Southern Tapestry*, 14, 27, 36, 37.

¹ The original village of Waterford was about three-quarters of a mile west of the present community, at the intersection of well-traveled pioneer roads, on an elevation just across Little Spring Creek. The location furnished a place where the creek could be crossed easily, hence the village's name. The town, located eight miles south of Holly Springs on Mississippi Highway 7, was incorporated in 1838. "Waterford" in Dunbar Rowland, ed., *Mississippi*, 2:940; R. B. Henderson, "Once Prosperous Town of Old Waterford Claimed by Obscurity," *Holly Springs South Reporter* (June 24, 1965); *Southern Tapestry*, 106-107.

² See *Southern Tapestry*, 106.

³ A Presbyterian congregation was organized at Waterford in 1838. Until 1928 the church was a union church shared with the Methodists. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 127-28, 244-45, 443-44; *Southern Tapestry*, 106-107.

⁴ See *Cemeteries of Marshall County*, 112.

SOME OLD POSTMASTERS

Few of the old postmasters will be remembered. Here is the list:

Holly Springs, Marshall Co.—William E. Williams.

Hudsonville, Marshall Co.—Lemuel Rogers.

Lamar, Marshall Co.—James H. Potts.

Waterford, Marshall Co.—Harris Jarnagin.

Salem, Tippah Co.—Daniel Hunt.

Cornersville, Lafayette Co.—R. T. Craig.

Wyatte, Lafayette Co.—John Gillis. The late Robert Hastings left Wyatte then a village of 500 people and a bank to come to Holly Springs with the railroad. Sam West now occupies his old store at the depot.

LaGrange, Tenn.—Arthur B. Gluster. LaGrange must have been founded earlier than Holly Springs (1836),⁵ and served the northern fringe of what are now Marshall and Benton Counties for church, business and postal facilities. My folks at first attended church (Episcopal) there from new Salem about twenty miles away⁶—attended more regularly, perhaps than many do today with cars and concrete streets.

New Albany, Pontotoc, Co.—Irvin R. Collins. There are Collinsses yet in that section, probably the same stock

Pontotoc, Monroe Co.—W. W. Leland.

Oxford, Lafayette Co.—James E Shegag. Possibly a typographical error, as the family, of whom there may be some there yet, spelled it Sheog.

Collierville, Tenn.—Wm. McMillan.

Memphis—Marcus B. Winchester. The Winchesters were pioneer settlers in Memphis. The old, and now abandoned, Winchester Cemetery, in North Memphis, is the oldest one there.

Glasgow, Barren Co. Ky.—J. B. Bates. Page C.H. Curd, he came from up in there, but his home town, Cave City, was not listed.

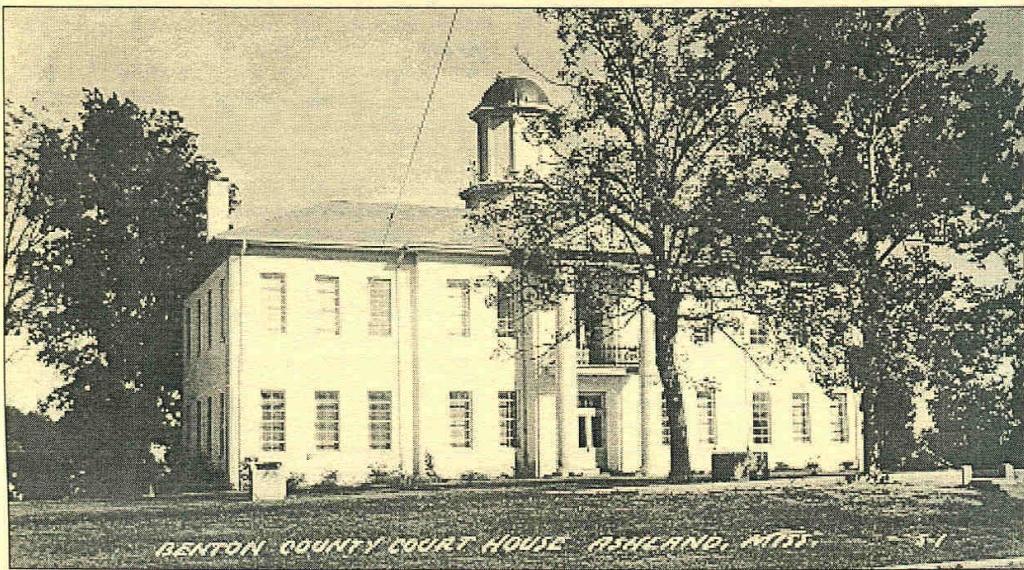
In carving up old counties to make new ones in North Mississippi, some of the foregoing named post offices are located in counties of different names at present.

⁵ The village of LaGrange, just across the state line from Marshall County, was incorporated in 1828. See John H. DeBerry, "LaGrange—LaBelle Village," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 30 (Summer 1971).

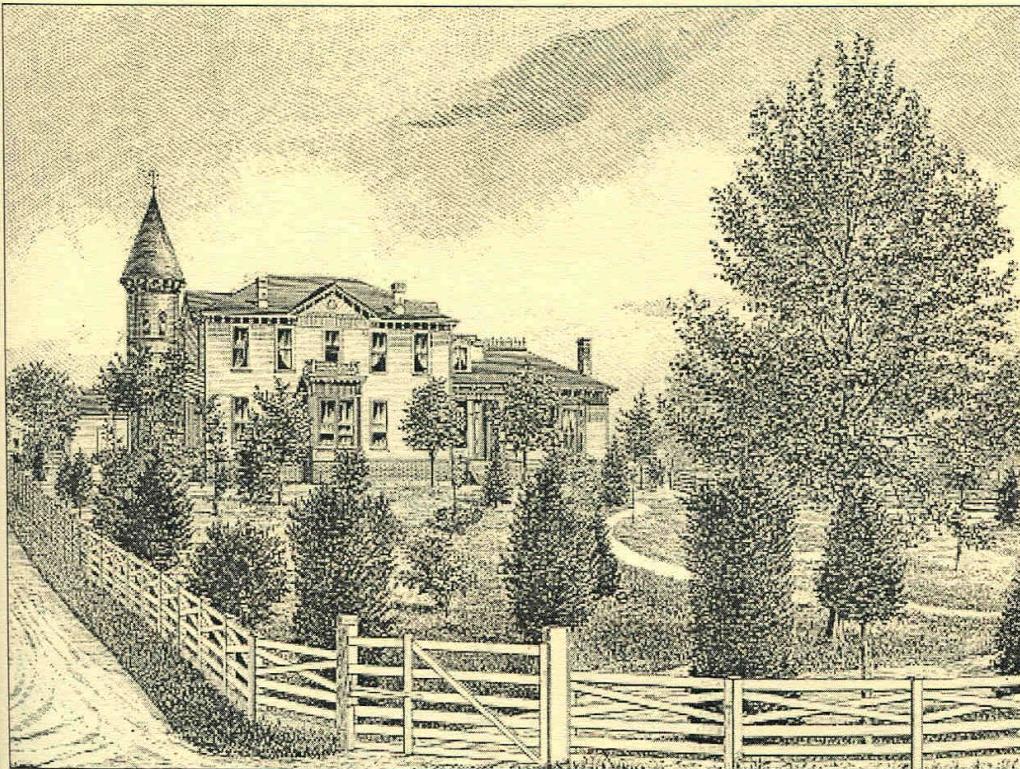
⁶ Mr. Mickle refers to the historic Immanuel Episcopal Church at LaGrange, Tennessee, established in 1832, the present church, which preserves a servants' gallery, was built ten years later. It remains the oldest Episcopal parish in West Tennessee.



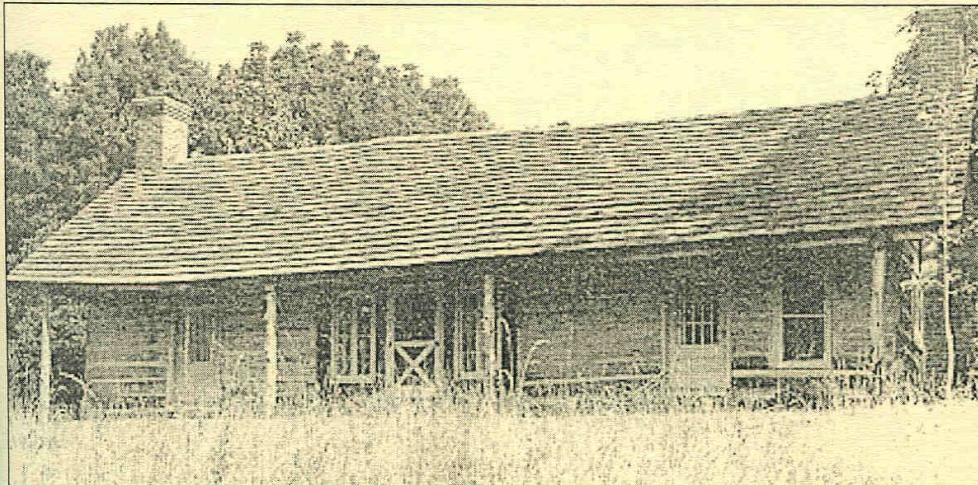
Mrs. Mary Pugh Jones Govan, who lived at "Snowden" (or "Snowdoun") in the Salem community.
Photo from Hubert McAlexander.



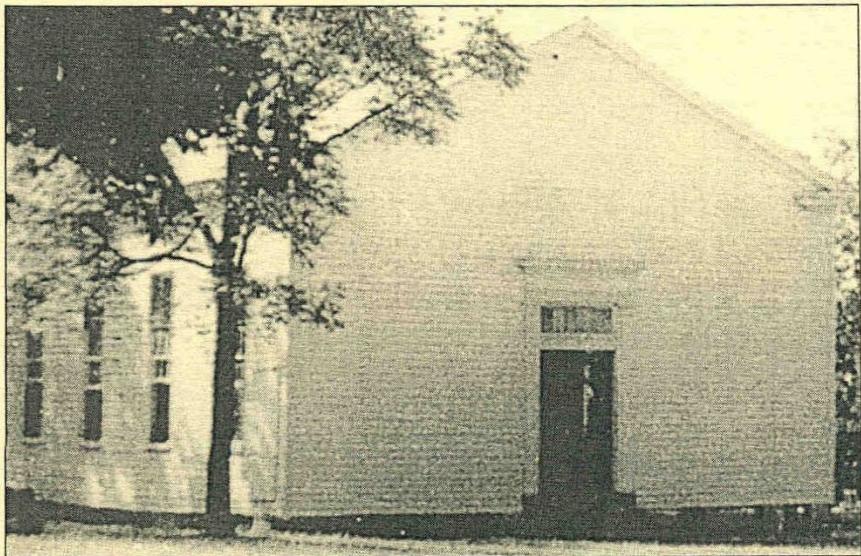
The former Benton County Court House was originally built in 1873. It has been remodeled several times.
Chesley Smith collection.



The Kate Tucker Institute, Byhalia, Miss. Photo from Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi.



"Tallaloosa," one of Marshall County's few surviving log houses. The plan was the familiar "dogtrot" design, complete with attic lofts and a separate kitchen behind.
Photo from Mary Wallace Crocker's Historic Architecture in Mississippi.



Old Hudsonville Presbyterian Church.
Holly Springs Presbyterian Church photo collection.



Hudsonville Cemetery.
Photo by R. Milton Winter.

Chapter III. War.

1.

HOLLY SPRINGS' PART IN THE MEXICAN WAR REVEALED BY OLD ISSUE OF *THE GAZETTE*.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (November 10, 1932).¹ George Meggison of Longview, Texas, formerly of Mack, has lent me a copy of *The Holly Springs Gazette* for Friday, January 8, 1847. The Mexican War is on, Holly Springs and Marshall County are at the front and doing gloriously.

For the first time in their history, Holly Springs and Marshall County soldiers have undergone the baptism of fire.²

There were doubtless a few who may have fought in 1812, and Tippah County holds the ashes of a soldier of the Revolution; but none of these soldiers, I am sure, had seen "a shot fired in anger," other than in personal encounters.³

The Marshall Relief Guards had left Saturday, December 26, 1846, for the front, and an immense crowd had gathered from town and county to see them off.

Ceremonies were opened by Dr. John Pittman, president of the M. C. Bible Society, who presented to the captain copies of the New Testament for all of the company.

Followed the presentation of a handsome sword to Capt. Kilpatrick from William Henry Loud, through William F. Stearns.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 15, 1932).

² Other accounts of Holly Springs and the Mexican War may be found in Hamilton 18-22; *A Vanishing America*, 61; and *Southern Tapestry*, 28-29.

³ *The Holly Springs Gazette* (May 9, 1846), had exclaimed, "War, and No Mistake! The citizens of Holly Springs and Marshall County will meet at the courthouse today to raise a volunteer company to march to Gen. Taylor's aid."

Gen. Thomas G. Polk then advanced upon the rostrum and after a few patriotic remarks introduced Miss Maria Shumake who had been delegated by her lady friends to present the banner they had made, and did so in a beautiful speech.

Gen. Polk was the father of the late Miss Emily Polk, and lived in the present home of the Jim Tuckers. Miss Shumake's father, I take it, had built and occupied the two-story brick residence on College Avenue, now M. S. College president's home, and known later as the Gen. Williamson and R. Shumacker homes.⁴

ELOQUENCE FROM EDITOR

The presentation of the flag caused the editor to wax eloquent. Hear him:

"The ladies of Holly Springs have but few equals and no superiors. They have ever been foremost in inciting their countrymen to deeds of daring and chivalry. The banner prepared by them for the Marshall Relief Guards was the most beautiful one we ever saw and the heart that would cower in bearing it aloft in the midst of danger and death would be unworthy of the approving smiles of the fair donors."

The Guards took up their line of march for Memphis immediately after the presentation and reached there December 28, and left Memphis soon after for Vicksburg, where they were mustered in. Drs. Moore and Willis, their surgeons, reached Vicksburg soon after. Dr. P. A. Willis

⁴ This is the handsome Federal-style house built in 1844 or 1848 by Francis Shumake, a Holly Springs merchant. The house, now known as "Linden Terrace," stands across from the Episcopal rectory and the Marshall County Historical Museum.

lived in the C. H. Curd residence, and was father of the late Ed, George and Clarence Willis.

Capt. J. H. R. Taylor writes the editor that the Holly Springs Company already in Mexico has suffered severely from sickness and death, number only 35 of the 93 who left Holly Springs.

The Gazette has a correspondent at the front. Wm. B. Spinks, member of the Holly Springs company; who writes from Camp Allen, near Monterey, November 19, 1846. The company belongs to the First Miss. Regmt. commanded by Col. Jefferson Davis, later president of the Confederacy. Lt. Col. McClung (the noted duelist) was first over the walls of Monterey.

Alexander Bradford of Holly Springs was a major. He was grandfather of Mrs. Mal Williamson Smith now of Dallas, Texas, and the late Alexander Bradford (Bud) Upshaw of Holly Springs-New York; and great-grandfather of Mrs. Etta Seale. The correspondent writes of him in the Battle of Monterey.

ALWAYS WHERE DUTY CALLED

"He was all the time where duty called, seeming not to think of danger. He continued on horseback, while bombshells were bursting, cannon balls, grape, canister and musket shot flying around him as thick as hail, yet seemed to feel no fear."

C. H. Mott has been appointed commissary of the regiment, but retains his company connection.¹ As Col. Mott he fell at the head of his regiment in the Civil War. Camp Kit Mott, United Confederate Veterans, was named for him. Mr. Spinks is his assistant in Mexico.

¹ Christopher Haynes Mott (1826-1862). Born in Kentucky, he came very young to Holly Springs, where he studied at St. Thomas Hall and read law under Roger Barton. He fought in the war with Mexico as a Lieutenant of the Marshall Guards. Mott was a member of the Mississippi legislature, judge of the probate court, and a special commissioner of the U. S. government to California and Oregon. He organized the Jeff Davis Rifles at the outbreak of the Civil War and fell in battle at Williamsburg, Virginia. His remains were brought to Holly Springs after the war and interred at Hill Crest Cemetery. The Holly Springs Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans was named in his memory. *Memoirs of Mississippi*, 2:480; Hamilton, 114.

U. S. Senator Jos. W. Chalmers of Holly Springs (father of Confederate Gen. Jas. R. Chalmers), writes *The Gazette* from Washington that he had obtained from the President of the United States rifles for the Mississippi regiment now being raised, to which the Guards probably belonged.²

Thomas A. Falconer is owner of *The Gazette* and in this issue announces that John P. Pryor Esq. is associate with him in the editorial department.³ He was brother of the late Sam H. Pryor, the father of Mrs. Robert Dancy and Mrs. Douglas Baird.

Died—in Holly Springs on January 4, at the residence of B. W. Walthall, Miss Margaret Ann Wilkinson, daughter of the late Dr. Cary Wilkinson, of Petersburg, Va.

Mr. Walthall was father of the late Mrs. Kate Freeman.

² Born in Halifax County, Virginia in 1807, Joseph W. Chalmers was descended from a Scottish family, and a near relative of the Rev. Thomas Chalmers, the nineteenth century divine who helped bring religious freedom to Scotland. After study at the University of Virginia, he practiced law in Richmond. In 1840, after residing for a time in Jackson, Tennessee, Chalmers moved to Holly Springs, where he formed a law partnership with Judge A. M. Clayton, and later with Roger Barton. Chalmers was appointed to a chancery judgeship in 1842. He served a brief time in the U. S. Senate, but did not seek re-election and was succeeded by Jefferson Davis. He was an ardent supporter of South Carolina, nullification, and the secessionist cause. He died at Holly Springs in June 1853. His home stood on the land east of "Montrose," where the arboretum is now located Lowry & McCordle, 624; James D. Lynch, *The Bench and Bar of Mississippi* (New York: E. Hale & Son, 1881): 177-80; Hamilton, 99-100; *Southern Tapestry*, 96.

³ Thomas Falconer, editor of the Whig paper, had tried to rally his community during the difficult years that followed the collapse of the cotton market in 1840. Focusing upon his town's earlier bravado, he marveled at the "spirit of extravagance and enterprise of 1836, '37, and '38" when a miniature cotton capital "arose out of the silence of the woods." *Holly Springs Gazette* (November 4, 1842). An enterprising man, he was among those who rushed to California after gold was discovered at Suter's mill in 1849. Falconer later returned to Holly Springs and took up newspapering once more. He built a one-story house at the northwest corner of what is now Maury Street and Falconer Avenue—the house today known as "White Pillars." It was greatly enlarged in 1870 by Howard Falconer. *Southern Tapestry*, 29.

The Holly Springs Post Office—R. S. Greer. P. M.—advertises a list of letters occupying a whole column in double rows. One was addressed to "Tom—colored."

ADAMS—AGEE

Married—On January 4, 1847, by the Rev. W. H. Seay of Somerville, Tenn., G. Zelotes Adams, the poet of Oxford, Miss., to Miss Lucy Catherine Agee of Marshall County, Miss., daughter of James A. Agee Esq., of Buckingham County, Va.

Mrs. E. R. Moore informs the public that she will open a select school in the Masonic Hall.

Hannibal Harris, clerk of the chancery court, inserts a non-resident's notice of John B. Fant, executor of Volney Peel, deceased.

John R. McCarroll, the unbeatable candidate for sheriff, holds that office as far back as 1846, and advertises a runaway negro woman taken up and for sale out of jail.¹

Gordentia Waite, probate clerk, inserts a legal notice. He was another popular official who held office for years. He issued license for marriage for lots of our parents and grandparents.²

¹ Marshall Countians did pursue runaway slaves, treating the departure as a criminal act. Emma Finley noted in her diary in April 1859 the unauthorized departure of a slave from "Strawberry Plains," the plantation belonging to her aunt and uncle, Ebenezer and Martha Greenlee Davis. Her casual mention of the incident implies that such happenings were not uncommon. "Instead of coming home we went out to Aunt Martha's Sunday eve....George came out & spent the night—he & Uncle Davis having agreed to join in a search after a runaway." *Our Pen Is Time*, 68.

² The Waites lived in the house, now known as "Theseion," built in 1836, at the northwest corner of East Ghelson Avenue and South Spring Street, presently the home of Mrs. Lanier Holland. It was originally a two-room log cottage, but was added to about 1854, along with a detached kitchen and servants' quarters. Students of architecture have noted that this is an excellent example to use when dating older houses, for the chimney on the original (north) side of the house is on the exterior, while the chimney on the addition made in the 1850s is built into the wall. These are typical of chimney placements for these dates in Holly Springs. The portico and columns were added in the 1960s. This was another of the Holly Springs homes which was rescued and restored by the late Charles N. Dean Jr. See photo, Miller-Smith, 39.

There are several law cards—Word & Walter, composed of Thos. J. Word and H. W. Walter; Cole & McCampbell, Edmund A. Cole and I. N. McCampbell; Wm. F. Stearns,³ who I believe was the father of the first Mrs. (Dr.) P. A. Willis; J. H. Kilpatrick, "office in the brick row on Oxford St., a few yards south of the square," S. D. Martin.

DOCTORS IN PARTNERSHIP

Drs. Caruthers & Dougherty have associated for practice of medicine; office the one occupied by Dr. Dougherty. Dr. Caruthers was maternal grandfather of Dr. Norman Gholson. Dr. Dougherty was father of Mrs. L. H. (Mabel) Johnson, now of Memphis.⁴

Drs. Dancy & Oswald; F. W. Dancy and John Oswald. Dr. Dancy was father of H. S. Dancy and Dr. Oswald father of the late Bland and John Oswald. Dr. J. O. Walker; office in back room of the drug store of B. J. Malone & Co. A Mr. Malone, I have been told, kept a drug store in the same building occupied by Dancy's drug store if it is the same building as in the advertisement it has been used for that purpose for over eighty-six years. Mr. Malone was a relative of the late Willis Malone.

C. O'Bryan, surgeon dentist. He was probably the father of Dr. O'Bryan who married a kinswoman of the late Mrs. Joe Farrell.

"The first quarterly meeting for Palmyra Church, near Farmington, Holly Springs Circuit, will take place on the 30th and 31st days of January, 1847."

³ William F. Stearns was a lawyer in the early history of Holly Springs, whose legal arguments are said to have influenced the policies of President James Buchanan. He delivered the address at the laying of the cornerstone of the University of Mississippi in 1846. When the law school at the university was established in 1854, he was called to be the first occupant of the chair of law and governmental science, serving until the university closed its doors due to the Civil War in 1861. *Historical Catalog of the University of Mississippi, 1849-1908*, 61; Hamilton, 118.

⁴ The Dougherty home, also known as the Estes Place, stood for many years at the southwest corner of Spring Street and Van Dorn Avenue, across the street from the Methodist Church. It was torn down for a service station. See photo, Miller-Smith, 35.

Among foreign news quoted: "Spanish papers call on France and England to establish a monarchy in Mexico to save that country from falling into the American Union."

ROSTER OF THE GUARDS

The roster of the Marshall Relief Guards, who left December 26 for the Mexican War shows:

Officers—J. H. Kilpatrick captain, C. C. Chinn 1st lieut., R. W. Cook 2nd lieut., W. Ijams 3rd lieut., Lessuer orderly serg., W. P. Fogg 2nd O. S., Wm. Lane 3rd O. S., E. A. C. Davis 4th O. S., F. M. Hackworth corp., R. T. Akin 2nd corp., John G. Wilson 3rd corp., John Boyd 4th corp.

Privates—J. L. C. Adams, E. B. Hollowell, J. S. Murphey, John R. Perry, S. R. Murphey, Jas. D. Giddens, Thomas Tanner, Wm R. Langley, Wm B. Craddock, F. R. Tidwell, Jas. W.

Allen, A. B. Parham, Robt. C. Mitchell, John P. McKenzie, Wm. C. Ramey, Abram Smithey, Jas. S. Stockton, Jno. C. Milliard, Jas. Leyden, Clayton Strickland, John Gorman, Josiah Lean, Jno. Q. Cock, J. W. Hill, Jno. Barden, Jno. E. Thompson, L. Box, J. A. Allen, Jno. Lemaster.

Sidney Henry, Jno. N. O. Bomer, Daniel Smith, Marsden A. Tucker, Wm. Hutchins, Lewis A. Lemay, W. P. Matlock, A. J. Marshall, Sandford Curtis, Ott Andrews, Wm. L. Davis, G. S. T. Sevier, Thos. Bailey, Wm. Prickett, Martin Clayton, Alston Gregory.

Jno. S. Mitchell, F. Davis, Wm. Gill, A. W. Rayburn, D. M. Childs, Jas Perry, Robt. A. Henry, Wm. Pope, Anderson Davis, Wm. E. Gill, Jos. E. Moody, Chesley Ray, U. M. Darden, Alfred Childers, E. J. Wilkerson, Benj. F. Bibb, Daniel Fuly, Jno. Satterly, Pat Glenning, Conus Curtis, Law. Courtney, Geo. H. Wilson.

2.

EARLY HOLLY SPRINGS INDUSTRY AS SHOWN BY OFFICIAL RECORDS.

Baltimore Man Collects Notes Concerning History
and Activities of Jones-McElwain Iron Foundry.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (June 9, 1938). From the papers and diary of Col. James H. Burton, Master Armorer, Confederate States of America, Richard D. Stewart of Baltimore has collected authentic notes concerning a very important early industry of Holly Springs,¹ the Jones-McElwain & Company Iron Foundry, and has recently mailed a copy of this information to Mrs. Egbert Jones of this city.²

Realizing that this information would be of special interest to local readers, Mrs. Jones has graciously granted permission for these notes to be published in the columns of *The South Reporter*. The notes, just as they were sent to Mrs. Jones by Mr. Stewart, are published below:

¹ Iron foundries were very rare in the lower South prior to the Civil War. South Carolina had one, Alabama and Georgia, ten, and Mississippi, three or four. A small foundry, operated by Ellis and Shoemaker was at work in Holly Springs as early as 1839. *Holly Springs Gazette* (March 30, 1839).

² Elizabeth Howard Blanton Jones (1868-1949) was vitally interested in history. Among her various projects was the successful effort to secure the preservation of "Stratford Hall," Robert E. Lee's birthplace in Virginia. She also conceived the idea of marking the Natchez Trace and having it paved as a historic parkway. Her efforts also resulted in the creation of a research commission to mark the route of the Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto through North Mississippi, which culminated in the establishment of a 500,000 acre wildlife sanctuary and conservation project at Richardson's Landing in Tennessee, administered by the National Park Service. She was one of those who originated the Holly Springs Pilgrimage in 1936. Rita B. Cochran, "First Pilgrimage was a Great Success," *Holly Springs South Reporter* (October 22, 1936); R. C. Gildart, *Natchez Trace: Two Centuries of Travel* (Helena, Mont.: American & World Geographic Publishing, 1996): 71-72; *It Happened Here*, 99-100; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 389, 395; *Southern Tapestry*, 131-32; see photo, p. 136.

HOLLY SPRINGS INDUSTRY

W. S. McElwain of Holly Springs, Miss., also referred to as McElwain & Company and as Jones-McElwain & Company, had a foundry before the War.³ They manufactured iron grill-work⁴ which was greatly in demand in building fine homes.⁵ Much of it was in New Orleans.⁶

³ Although North Mississippi has few deposits of high grade iron ore, there are surface deposits which were studied for their commercial value as recently as 1963. These surface out-crops would have produced enough ore to supply the local foundry, and the large hardwood forests nearby provided an excellent source of charcoal for its operation. Les Crocker, "An Early Iron Foundry in Mississippi," *Journal of Mississippi History* 35 (May 1973): 113-26.

⁴ Physical remains on the site of the Jones, McIlwaine foundry attest to the production of numerous items: window latches, shutter catches, hinges, nails, sash weights. Balcony grilles, fences, column capitals, and window heads of the sort made popular by books such as Minard LaFever's *Beauties of Modern Architecture* (1839), were produced over a long period of time and in many styles. Such castings were made in Holly Springs from 1845 to the Civil War. These remain as the best examples on which to judge the foundry's technical capacities.

⁵ As Leslie Frank Crocker has remarked, "The Holly Springs Iron Works existed as a singularly unique industry in an agricultural area. It dispels the illusion that all of the South was concerned with raising cotton." But the primary contribution of the foundry was architectural, not military. It was disrupted before its production could have any effect upon the military capacity of its Confederate owners. "An Early Iron Foundry in Mississippi," 126. Crocker also notes that the surviving ante-bellum structures of Holly Springs exhibit a great deal more iron work, including fences and gates, than is usually found in other Southern locations—a fact he attributes to the town's proximity to the foundry. "The Greek Revival Architecture of Holly Springs, Mississippi, 1837-1867" (M.A. thesis, University of Missouri, 1967): 19.

⁶ In 1860, the Holly Springs iron works, located about two and a half miles north of town, near the

Upon the outbreak of the War, the firm turned its attention to the manufacture of firearms for the Confederacy. It is said to have been the first private firm in the South to receive a Government contract.

On July 8, 1861, the Confederate War Department was notified that the firm was installing machinery to make rifles on the Mississippi model. Delivery was to begin in 60 days and the output was to be 100 guns a day (*Official Records*, Part IV, Vol. 1, p. 425).

General Gorgas, Confederate Chief of Ordnance, reported August 12, 1861, that McElwain had been given a contract for 30,000 rifles, delivery to begin November 1. (*Official Records*, Part IV, Vol. 1, p. 556).¹

The Mississippi Legislature authorized the incorporation of the Marshall County Manufacturing Company, which seems to have been the name of the munitions company. The incorporators were Wiley A. P. Jones, William S. McElwain, E. G. Barney and J. Howard Athey. An act of Legislature of July 1861, empowers the firm to buy additional machinery and "to make and enforce any by-law not contrary to the State Constitution."

Mississippi Central tracks, was the largest such enterprise in the South. The next largest casting operation was in Ohio County, Virginia, near the present city of Wheeling, West Virginia. It employed 85 men. A foundry in Stewart County, Tennessee, produced a greater amount of iron, but its production consisted of iron bars. The foundry at Holly Springs was, instead, a casting foundry, and was acknowledged to be the largest of its kind south of the Mason-Dixon line.

¹ The following letter from Col. Walter Goodman of Holly Springs to L. P. Walker, Secretary of War of the Confederacy is cited in *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 13: "They are making machinery to construct the Mississippi Rifle; in one week they will be ready to roll, bore, and rifle the barrel. In ninety days they can turn out 100 per day. Mr. McElwain, a master mechanician and inventor, perfected a machine for making better rifles and the firm of Jones and McElwain on August 12, 1861, was given a contract for 30,000 stands of arms, the first delivery on which is to be made by November 1, and thereafter at the rate of 2,000 per month." However, progress in manufacturing rifles was not as swift as hoped. Robert B. Alexander told his diary (February 24, 1862) that: "I went to the foundry in the morning...Capt. Barney spoke of the gun making. He said he expected to have 20 guns out this week."

On June 20, 1862, General Sherman's command occupied Holly Springs and destroyed the Mississippi Central Railroad bridges. But the machinery for making arms had been sent to Macon, Georgia, and the finished arms removed to Grenada, Miss. (*Official Records*, Vol. XVI, Part 1, p. 9).²

In April 1862, according to records in the Marshall County Courthouse, the Confederate Government bought Jones-McElwain & Company plant.³

I also find reference to a contract made to supply the State of Mississippi with 5,000 rifles. And it is said that some of these guns were in the hands of the Confederate troops at Shiloh.

In 1924, writing from Chattanooga, Tenn., Mrs. H. J. Miller, a daughter of McElwain, says that the first rifle made at her father's plant was purchased by a Mr. Gunther, of Chicago, for his private collection. This collection was bequeathed to the Chicago Historical Society. In 1933, the writer searched through the arms in the Historical Society collection, but was unable to find the gun.

W. S. McElwain⁴ was born in Pitts, Ala. and set up the Cahaba Iron Works, where he made

² The last recorded shipment of arms from the Holly Springs Armory took place, May 13, 1862. The Battle of Shiloh, in April, and the consequent retreat of the Confederate army to Corinth, exposed most of North Mississippi to capture by the Union army. This imminent danger to the foundry may have been a factor in the Confederate decision to purchase the operation. Confederate authorities must have known that Holly Springs might be captured, but determined to save the machinery by moving it to another location. "An Early Iron Foundry in Mississippi," 118.

³ The armory was sketched for *Harper's Magazine* (January 13, 1863), shortly before Van Dorn's raid of December 20, 1862. Ironically, the drawing was not published until just after the facility had been destroyed. *Southern Tapestry*, 65.

⁴ McElwain, who was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts in 1832, having trained to be a machinist, working for awhile at a gun factory in New York, and later moving to Sandusky, Ohio, where he worked in a foundry and machine shop. He came to Holly Springs at the invitation of his uncle, Walter Goodman, president of the Mississippi Central Railroad. McElwain was associated with Wiley A. P. Jones and Captain E. G. Barney. Barney, was superintendent of the railroad, and had financial resources at his disposal. Jones also had been involved in the construction of the railroad. He is said to have donated lumber for construction of

charcoal pig iron for the Selma (Ala.) Arsenal. The iron works were destroyed by Wilson's raiders in 1865. Late in 1865 McElwain went to Cincinnati, where he went into business with his cousin, H. D Merrill. McElwain's health failed in 1872 and he sold out his business and went to Chattanooga. He was in the lumber business there when he died.

(*Story of Coal and Iron in Alabama*, page 165.)

The Memphis Appeal of March 14, 1862, says:

"The gun factory at Holly Springs, Miss. is now turning out 40 good muskets a day. It will soon be able to turn out 100 a day for the Government."

A description of the Jones-McElwaine property submitted to the War Department at Richmond by Judge J. W. C. Watson in 1861 shows:

Armory building and machinery	\$106,000
Blacksmith shop	34,200
Forge building	14,400
Foundry and Machine shop	40,000
Stock on hand	45,000
Total	\$ 239,200

the work sheds, while Barney donated an old locomotive boiler he fished out of the Tallahatchie River. With his uncle throwing orders his way when possible, it was not long before McElwain enlarged his works to include a pattern shop, foundry, and blacksmith shop. Within eighteen months after the plant went into production, business had increased to the point that when the call went out for bids for iron fittings for the Moresque Building in New Orleans, McElwain placed a bid that was selected over firms in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and New Orleans. J. H. Athey, from Tennessee—also employed by the railroad—became a partner, and by the spring of 1861, two hundred men were at work in the facility. Sherman arrived at Grand Junction on June 6, 1862, and started south. This caused the removal of the armory at Holly Springs and the burning of a large portion of the facility, lest it fall into Union hands. The machinery was shipped to Mobile thence up the Alabama River to Selma, Montgomery, and finally to Macon, Georgia. Sherman's advance entered Holly Springs June 17 and stayed two days and reported that the vacant buildings left standing would serve well as a hospital. *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (October 18, 1936).

(From the papers and diary of Col. James H. Burton, Master Armorer, Confederate States of America.)¹

¹ See Harold S. Wilson, *Confederate Industry: Manufacturers and Quartermasters in the Civil War* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2002). See also "Foundry at Holly Springs Supplied Confederate Guns Until Taken, Later Burned," *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (Oct. 18, 1936); "Early Holly Springs Industry as Shown by Official Records," *South Reporter* (Jun. 9, 1938); Wilson Golden Jr., "The Rebel Armory," *South Reporter* (Apr. 20 and 27, 1961).

3.

HOLLY SPRINGS IN THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES.(From *The Baptist Record*, December 3, 1936.)

Holly Springs was not a strategic point and, therefore, no great battle was fought here. Neither army thought it worthwhile to attempt to hold it.

Early in the war the Federals captured Memphis and established a large force there, from which armies were sent out to fight battles further south and east. They infested the town at intervals, however, and sent out numerous raids from Memphis, which resulted in numerous clashes here with the harassing Confederates, with an engagement occasionally between regiments near here.¹

With the absence of military investment or civil government from either side, the town was dubbed "The Republic of Holly Springs."

The city government continued to function, elected a mayor and aldermen, who ordered "sidewalks repaired, ditches filled," and so on, as though the great drama of war was not going on.

The old minute book, dating back to the forties, and continuing until after the war, stated they collected taxes, but in what sort of money it did not record. How I would like to know! But when I found the book those citizens who knew had passed on.²

It was the part of wisdom, but in these four years no mention, whatever, was made of the

war,³ except to record a Federal order toward the last.

Neither government maintained a post office here, but citizens placed two cracker boxes in Bob Simpson's vacant store—on the site of the present post office—and Confederate soldier-boys, slipping in on furlough, placed letters from comrades in one. Citizens placed letters in the other, and returning soldiers took these to the front. The Federals did not disturb this emergency post office.⁴

Holly Springs suffered much during the war, the Federal blockade reduced food supplies to the minimum.⁵ Livestock and food were taken

³ Similar silence about the hostilities may be noted in the minutes of the session of the Presbyterian Church, next door to City Hall.

⁴ See also pp. 97-98. Many of Mildred Strickland's wartime letters to Major Strickland are addressed "in care of" or "by favor of" this or that person who delivered them. She began a letter April 4, 1861, this way: "Mr. Sims sent me word this evening that he would leave for Pensacola tomorrow morning, and as letters seem to go so much quicker by hand, I conclude it is much better to write by some one." On Mar. 19, 1863, she confided that: "I don't write to you as often as I desire, but it is difficult to get persons to take letters; they so often keep the letters in their pockets several days." *Civil War Women*, 251.

⁵ On February 9, 1865, Cora Watson wrote that: Mrs. Smith, Mr. Anderson, and Carrie came about eleven and spent the day. Our dinner was quite stylish for these hard times—a nice turkey, with gooseberry sauce, a baked ham, cold beef, tongue, stewed fruit, sweet and sour pickles, batter-bread, hard and light biscuits, and butter, with tea and coffee. Yet looking back to the dinners of our years ago makes this one seem poor. The previous summer Belle Strickland, who boarded in the Watson home recorded that "We are living on cornbread and butter." *Civil War Women*, 25, 27. Meanwhile, W. Irwin McGowan, who lived in the Spring Creek community southeast of Waterford remembered the desperation following Van Dorn's raid. His older brothers had joined the army, and Irwin, the thirteen-year-old son of the house, felt the

¹ Something of the civic anxiety resulting from these constant reversals of authority may be gleaned from the diaries of Cora Harris Watson and Belle Strickland during this period. See *Civil War Women*, 1-127.

² In her journal, Cora Watson frequently laments the relative differences in value between gold, "greenbacks," and Confederate money. See *Civil War Women*, 66-67, 106-10.

responsibility of providing food for his widowed mother and the others that remained on the place. He told of one bitter experience: "Our food supply was almost exhausted. For days we had eaten nothing but the small sweet potatoes the soldiers had overlooked and the hominy which we made from a hidden supply of corn soaked in lye leached from the ashes of our wood fires. One day mother called me and said, 'Irwin, we must have a meal. All the children are getting sick from eating nothing but potatoes and hominy.' We had a scant supply of corn left and the gristmill stood idle. In happier days it was our custom to grind one day each week, supplying the needs of the plantation and neighborhood. We hitched a strong team to each end of a long pole and, driving them round and round, ground the corn between the two great millstones. But now we had no teams left to use. However, I began to make my plans and to send word around that there would be a grinding at McGowan's mill on Monday. On the appointed day, I arose before sun up and harnessed Kit—Mother's saddle mare, the only animal left on the place, with a patched up harness and waited at the mill in suspense. Finally a boy came, driving a team of oxen that resembled nothing so much as the seven lean kine which Pharaoh in his dreams saw come up from the river Nile. [Genesis 41:17-41, King James Version] They were the most miserable little flea-bitten beasts that you ever saw. The boy took in the situation with a pessimism devoid of surprise. After a brief consultation, he agreed to help me for his need of meal was as great as mine and we went to work to do the only thing possible. He hitched his oxen with their patched gear to one end of the pole and I fastened Kit to the other. Kit was a splendid saddle mare. She had taken first prize at the Fair in Holly Springs the first year of the war. Mother always rode her but she had never been harnessed to anything before. She was thin and emaciated from long hiding in the woods and short rations, but her spirit remained unbroken. The boy called to his oxen and with much urging succeeded in starting them off. I led Kit and for a few minutes all went well but, watching closely, I saw the light of comprehension gradually begin to dawn in her eyes. I could read her thoughts as clearly as you ever read a man's eyes from the expression of his countenance. It took her a few seconds to realize the insult that had been put upon her but when she did her anger rose uncontrolled and carried everything before it. I have never doubted I verily heard her eyes snap, as with a leap she freed herself from the rotten harness and in fury started for the house. Judy, the cook, saw her coming and called out, 'Misses, there won't be no meal today. Here comes ole Kit with all them strings and straps a-hanging to her.' But before she could say more, Mother's calm voice replied (and after fifty years my father repeated her words as proudly as if he were showing his children a medal of honor), 'Yes, there will be. I sent Irwin for meal and he will bring me some.' Just then I was far from being so confident. As a last resort, we raised the stones to make the work as light as possible and put one of the

and there was much robbery of houses by soldiers, though many were decent fellows.¹

oxen in Kit's place. Leaving the owner of the beasts to drive his team, I climbed to the left of the mill to examine the results. Never in the whole four miserable years was I so absolutely discouraged when I looked down and saw the tiny stream of meal hardly larger than a knitting needle and began to figure what my toll would be. Utterly hopeless I threw myself down on the floor and cried. Not for long, however, for soon I heard a hail and looking out I saw two grown men riding a pair of splendid mules. They were soldiers home on furlough and, hearing of the grinding, had come for meal for their families. The situation was soon explained and they willingly agreed to take out the oxen and put in their mules. They were still only two to do the work of four but the mules were strong and the soldiers agreed to grind as long as the mules held out and then divide whatever we made. Hopeful once more, I tightened the stones and we went to work again. Before the mules were exhausted, other neighbors began to participate and by making frequent changes we ground all day. When the first pint of my toll of meal was measured out, I seized it thankfully and made a dash for the house that Judy might cook it for dinner." Josephine McGowan Cox, "My Father Told Me," McGowan Family Papers (unpublished manuscript, undated): 47-49. Virginia Woodson Carter Historical Room of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church. Some U. S. soldiers complained for lack of food. In the aftermath of Van Dorn's raid, one wrote from Moscow, Tenn., twenty miles north of Holly Springs, that for New Year's the men had "baked a big Joney Cake without any salt or grease, and that was all we had, no meat, no crackers, no flower, and no nothing." "O cow," he exclaimed, "the Rebs had all but the joney cake when they took Holly Springs behind us." Leo M. Kaiser, "Letters from the Front," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* 56 (Summer 1963): 158-59.

¹ On Sunday, August 28th 1864, Belle Strickland recorded that "The Yankees went away this morning. There was church but we did not go. This evening some of our soldiers came in town and we were very glad to see them. I forgot to say that this morning we were wakened by the servants saying that the Yankees were going to burn the town and we got up and dressed as quick as we could. When we went down to the gate we saw a house on fire and I thought that they would burn the town sure enough and tied all of my things up in a bundle. It was Mr. McConnico's house that was on fire. They tried to burn Mrs. Minor's [Mr. Mickle's grandmother's] house and several others but the guards put out the fire. Our guards were just as kind as they could be and stayed with us until the last minute. When they were going out the Major of the 12th Iowa went around and got up all the stragglers and did not leave one." *Civil War Women*, 37-38. Though but a small child, Mr. Mickle recalled the incident referred to at his grandmother's home, and refers to it elsewhere in these pages (see p. 4). Mean-

The Federals had orders to burn all unoccupied residences in town and country, and did, but I never heard of any occupied houses being burned. A Federal command resting here locked some prisoners—their own men—in the courthouse, a wooden structure, and these fired the clock tower and the building was destroyed, but not by orders.

People resorted to crude methods for a food supply. Roasting ears were grated on large tin graters, like nutmeg graters, and used for bread. Toasted dried corn was ground and used for coffee, and tea was made for sassafras leaves. Most families kept a cow and had milk for butter. Dried corn was ground in hand mills for bread. People ate meat when they could get it. I saw my first orange after the war—they sold for twenty-five cents apiece in Memphis.¹

None but old men were left in town by the war, and as there were many lawless characters, passing through the town, the ladies petitioned his commander to send Town Marshal Billie Jones back from the army for protection, which was done. Mr. Jones, a fearless officer, resigned his office and enlisted in the Confederate army early in the war. He remained here for the rest of

while. On July 2, 1862, Robert B. Alexander of "Happy Hill" Plantation south of Holly Springs had complained to his journal that "Yankees in H. Springs [are] stealing & pilfering as usual."

¹ Robert B. Alexander recorded (April 18, 1861), that he had bought an orange tree in Memphis for two dollars. Oranges were among the luxuries sought by Holly Springs citizens who slipped through enemy lines to buy goods and seek entertainment in Memphis. Cora Watson reported Wednesday, Jan. 11, 1865 that "Mrs. Hull called this evening. She gave us a very amusing account of Betsy's and Carrie's Memphis trip. Says they spent three or four hundred dollars apiece, and had nothing new when they came home but two worsted dresses. They kept their bureau drawers filled with candies, oranges, and all sorts of nice things. Would go out walking, and when tired call a hack. In short, 'lived high,' luxuriating in Yankee elegancies." *Civil War Women*, 251. Mary Virginia Grigsby Foley remembered Yuletide customs a generation later. "Christmas services were held on the Sabbath nearest Christmas Day, with no service on the day itself. Christmas was lots of fun, though quite simple compared to holidays now. We did not have trees in our homes, but hung up our stockings by the fireplace. We had pleasant but simple gifts. One great treat was an orange in the toe of each stocking. Oranges were not to be had at all seasons of the year as they are now and were really a treat." *Memories of Childhood in Holly Springs*, 29-30.

the war, undisturbed by the Union troops. The late Bud Jones was his son.

Pardon two little personal stories. The Yankee blockade shut Santa Claus out, and the little Confederate flag I found in my stocking was homemade—an ivory handle from an old parasol, some fringe and cloth.²

I was a loyal "rebel." Cousin Jimmie Crump³ (Dabney Crump of Memphis is his son) was back with a wounded arm. To have a little fun with me he brought two apples for me to choose from, one a bright red, was a Yankee apple, the other, a knotty little green one, was Confederate. I promptly took the green one, and he rewarded my loyalty with both.

I said there was no major battle near Holly Springs, but General Van Dorn's dash into Holly Springs in December 1862, was one of the most brilliant incidents of the war.

In preparation for his intended march on Vicksburg by land, General Grant had accumulated a vast store of supplies here, over \$2 million worth of clothing, food, feed, munitions, and so on. These were housed where possible, and otherwise piled in the open around the depot.

To guard these stores General Grant left a regiment, which was camped at the fairgrounds, now partly occupied by Civilian Conservation Corps Camp 2424. A chain of pickets was thrown around the town.

² Cora Watson gave this wartime description of the holiday's observance in the J. W. C. Watson household, marked by wartime simplicity: "Sunday, Dec. 25, 1864: Christmas-Sis. Lizzie called me from writing in my journal last night to help pull the children's candy. We made two kettles full, and Sis. Lizzie iced some cakes, and we filled the children's stockings. We were up until almost one o'clock. We cannot buy any nice things for them, and have to content ourselves with hazelnuts, homemade cakes, and candy. Ed said he would be satisfied if we made up in quantity what we lacked in quality. This morning at day the children were up catching us 'Christmas gifts.' They were delighted with what Santa Claus had brought them. We were up so late last night that we slept correspondingly late this morning, and did not have breakfast until 10 o'clock." *Civil War Women*, 274.

³ James M. Crump, son of William Crump, who lived out of Holly Springs over Salem Bridge on a place named Tuckahoe.

General Van Dorn, whose command was hidden out some miles east of town, sent a spy in, who feigned to be a countryman whose wife was about to be confined, and who dashed frantically over town and camp looking for a doctor.

In Van Dorn's command were a number of soldiers from Holly Springs, who know every hog path, and preceding the attack, slipped through the lines and captured enough of the sentinels to permit Van Dorn's free entrance. The Union command was asleep and were easily captured.

The Confederates had to work fast. General Grant was at Oxford, only thirty miles away, with his army on their way to Vicksburg, and he had heard of the attack and would be back next day with an overwhelming force.

So supplies in the open were burned. The three-story Masonic Building was filled with munitions and there was not time to move them out, so the building was blown up. It was said the building apparently rose intact for about a hundred feet and flew to pieces.

Supplies were stored at the iron foundry, several hundred yards north of the railroad crossing, on the west side of [what came to be known as] the I. C. Road.

Before the war this foundry did a large business in the Mid-South. The Moresque Building, opposite Lafayette Square, a showplace in New Orleans was molded here and shipped down. It was destroyed by fire some years ago.

Early in the war the Confederate government bought the foundry and converted it into an arms factory. The Federals had seized it, and so Van Dorn burned that and the supplies.

When the Masonic Building, which stood on the site of the present one on the east side of the square, was blown up, it set fire to the wooden buildings occupying the rest of the block and all were burned.

The east half of the north side of the square, also of wood, caught fire, and in turn fired the Magnolia Hotel, a three-story brick structure, occupying almost all of the west end of the north side.¹

¹ Although Federal forces were responsible for acts that outraged many white citizens, such as the sta-

The destruction of the supplies here caused Grant to turn back and go down by river to Vicksburg.

Holly Springs and Marshall County possessed a fine citizenship as a whole, white and black and of all classes. Patriotism was strong and two companies soon answered the call to arms and were sent to Pensacola.

One of these was the Home Guards, an antebellum militia company, recruited to full strength, with Thomas W. Harris, captain.

The Jeff Davis Rifles, Samuel Benton, captain, was organized on the call; as was the Quitman Rifles of Waterford, Robert McGowan, captain, which entrained with the other two for Pensacola.² Other companies in town and county were forming.

The women were patriotic to the core and few held their men back, even in the bitter days of the war. The women met daily in the Masonic Hall the first year of the war to make clothes and bandages for the soldiers.³

Holly Springs claims one Confederate major general and four brigadier generals who called this place home, though all but three were living else where when war came.

These were Major General Edward Cary Walthall, later U. S. Senator; General W. S. Featherston; General James R. Chalmers, General Claudius Wistar Sears, and General Daniel C. Govan.

General A. M. West moved here after the war and is buried here.

bling of horses in the Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches, most of the damage that Holly Springs sustained in the Civil War seems to have been inflicted by Confederate soldiers.

² See photos, *Southern Tapestry*, 62-63.

³ Mr. Mickle, like most white Southerners of his era, reserved the term "patriotic," when describing the period 1861-1865, for Confederate partisans. For a wide-ranging account of the effect of wartime privations on the civilian population, see Charles W. Ramsdell, *Behind the Lines in the Southern Confederacy* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1972); also *Civil War Women*, 97, 104-107.

4.

ROSTER OF THE HOLLY SPRINGS VOLUNTEERS OF 1861.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (November 20, 1930). The late Capt. Joseph B. Mattison, editor of *The South*, reproduced in 1891 from *The Southern Herald* the story of the departure of the first troops from Holly Springs in the War of the Sixties,¹ and also the roster of the three companies.²

In the first rush into war both North and South sought men of military experience and training to lick into shape the armies of inexperienced volunteers, and Capt. Mattison, who while living in New York had been a member of the famous Seventh Regiment, rendered great service with these first troops.³

The Southern Herald, from which the story is taken, was published by Thomas A. and Kinloch Falconer, father and son, and the date was April 5, 1861.

The rosters are not complete, as many recruits followed them to Pensacola, Fla., shortly after.⁴

¹ Though Mr. Mickle does not enter into the debate that still raged as late as the time he wrote, about what this war should be called, by using such terms as the War of the Sixties, or the Four Years' War, he diplomatically avoids both the name preferred by Confederate partisans—the War Between the States—and the name used by supporters of the Union, who preferred the designation 'Civil War.'

² Other summaries of Holly Springs in the Civil War may be found in Lippincott's 18 (October 1876): 500-501; Hubert Horton McAlexander, *The Prodigal Daughter: A Biography of Sherwood Bonner* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1981): 10-17; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 169-93; and *Southern Tapestry*, 62-69.

³ Many Southerners—brash men from privileged homes, went into the contest without knowing the sacrifice that war demands. Hodding Carter captured their bravado in this account: "The men and boys of Holly Springs and Marshall County were as ready to fight as any in the South and as confident that since one Southerner could whip 20 Yankees, the war would be a lark that might even end before they could enjoy it." *A Vanishing America*, 63.

⁴ As William Baskerville Hamilton has noted, Holly Springs literally poured men into the Army of

Both of the Falconers died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878, Maj. Kinloch Falconer, who was then Secretary of State for Mississippi, coming here from Jackson to nurse his father who was an early victim.

The South Reporter is indebted to Frank C. Mattison, son of Capt. Mattison for the copy of the story which follows:

THE SOUTHERN HERALD,
Thos. A. Falconer, Kinloch Falconer, Editors.
Holly Springs, Friday, Apr. 5, 1861.

DEPARTURE OF THE VOLUNTEERS

Thursday, the 28th day of March, 1861, was a day long to be remembered in Holly Springs. It was the day appointed for the Volunteers from Marshall County, who had nobly responded to the call made upon Mississippi, by President Davis, for 1500 troops to go to Pensacola, to set out for the scene of action. The three companies who had been accepted for that service were Jeff Davis Rifles, Capt. Sam Benton; the Home Guards, Capt. Thos. W. Harris; and the Quitman Rifle Guards, Capt. Robert McGowan, Jr.; the first two were from Holly Springs and the last named from Waterford.⁵ Three more brave and gallant companies, or companies made up of better material, social, moral and intellectual, were never mustered into service, in any age, or in any country. The farmer and the mechanic, the teacher and the pupil, the laborer and the artist, the merchant and the lawyer, the typist and the editor, were all represented by some of their very best material. Some of the leading minds of the State, and men of the first class in all the departments of life, were there, to represent Mississippi in the camp, and, if need be on the battlefield. The slave-holder and the non-slaveholder stood side

the Confederacy. Company after company of Marshall County men enrolled in Holly Springs and marched off to America's bloodiest war." No complete list of those who served, or those who died is available. See Hamilton, 144-49.

⁵ See photos of the Home Guards and Jeff Davis Rifles in *Southern Tapestry*, 55, 63-63.

by side in those gallant ranks, and they go to teach the fanatic and deluded Yankee that they have a common interest in the maintenance of our glorious cause; the one fighting in defense of the social and moral position of himself and family, and the other in defense of his property and equal rights. But we are digressing.

It had been previously announced that these troops were to leave the depot of the Mississippi Central Railroad at 8 o'clock on the morning of the 28th ult., and at an early hour that morning a very large crowd of the citizens of the county were assembled there, to give the volunteers the parting hand and the parting blessing.¹

An important feature of the occasion was the presentation of a beautiful flag to the Jeff Davis Rifles, by the young ladies of the Holly Springs Female Institute,² of which Prof. Hackelton is principal. The flag was presented by Miss Jennie Edmondson, who represented the young ladies. She was most tastefully dressed, having on a jacket of gray, trimmed with black, with cap of similar material, to correspond with the uniform of the Rifles. Her address was replete with beauty, both in the matter and manner of it. Her graceful figure; her handsome features; her clear, distinct and musical enunciation; and yet more, the earnest feeling with which she spoke, all tended greatly to heighten the effect of the burning words and elegant diction of the address itself. The heart would have been hard and the eye cold indeed, that could have withheld the homage of a tear to the triumph of woman's eloquence, which she pledged to the parting soldiers the prayers of her own sex and the blessings of the people, and invoked in their behalf, in anxious and trembling tones, the benediction of Almighty God.

¹ Robert B. Alexander recorded in his diary (March 28, 1861) that those who witnessed the soldiers leave said there was a crowd of 3,000 at the depot.

² The Female Institute, which had occupied a handsome two-story building of the Tuscan order, large enough to accommodate 140 students and to board 60, stood in a park-like setting on the east side of what is now North Walthall Street (the site of the new Holly Springs High School). It closed in 1862 and was burned after use by the Confederates as a hospital for infectious diseases. It was never rebuilt. The town's first public school was later built on the site. See information and photos in *Prodigal Daughter*, 9; *A Vanishing America*, 60; Miller-Smith, 57-58; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 51-52; *Southern Tapestry*, 16, 21, 30, 64, 69, 92. The name of Park Avenue, which runs west from the site of the school, evokes a memory of the beautiful little park that once encircled the Holly Springs Female Collegiate Institute.

That flag was received by Capt. Benton, as the gallant representative of his gallant company. Mr. Benton's reputation as a public speaker is too well established to need any encomium from us. His remarks were brief, appropriate and to the point—the promptings of a patriotism as profound as the speaker is known to be generous and brave. But the heart of the soldier was too full for any display of words. In plain and feeling language he thanked the young ladies for this token of their regard and confidence, and of their devotion to the cause of independence, and gave them a soldier's word that THAT FLAG, though perchance stained with blood, should never be stained with dishonor.³

Soon after this interesting ceremony the sound of the whistle indicated that the hour of departure had arrived. Then came the warm pressure of the hand, the silent tear, and, in broken accents from many a patriotic mother, the earnest words—"God bless you, my son; do your duty!" Then the conductor's quick, sharp cry of "all aboard," the tap of the engine bell, the whistle again, the quick and the still quicker panting of the iron horse, the rumbling of wheels, and the gallant Volunteers of Marshall were gone—flying upon the wings of steam⁴ to answer their country's call. How heavily was the train freighted with the hopes of a people, and the prayers and blessings of "loved ones at home."

Another train with the Lafayette Guards, Capt. Delay, from Oxford, and some other companies from counties below here, left the depot but a moment before our train started. All, we learn, were under the command of Adjutant Mc-

³ Bertram Wyatt-Brown points out the supremely important role that the concept of "honor" played in the antebellum South. See *Southern Honor: Ethics and Behavior in the Old South* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1983).

⁴ Passenger trains in the South were hardly speedy. Until after the war, they held to an absolute limit of 25 miles-per-hour, while freights crept along at 10-12 m.p.h., but still the trip seemed vastly faster than the older methods of conveyance. In a more realistic description, recorded in August 1858, Emma Finley wrote of a trip from Holly Springs to Red Sulphur Springs north of the present town of Luka, Mississippi, that "Into the cars we crawled & took- a last look—away we go- 'shooting over bridges, rumbling over ridges' & leaving the rain, thunder, & lightning in the rear somewhat... [we] changed cars at the [Grand] Junction & made slow speed past the renowned Salisbury, Corinth, Pocahontas & arrived at Burnsville near 3 a.m." *Our Pen Is Time*, 9.

panies from counties below here, left the depot but a moment before our train started. All, we learn, were under the command of Adjutant McGuirk, than whom a more gallant officer never lived.

The 28th of March 1861, is a day long to be remembered in the annals of Marshall County. Below we give a list of those gallant sons of the South whom, willingly obedient to Mississippi's call, have gone forth to meet the aggressors of our independence as a nation of free Confederate States:

HOME GUARDS

OFFICERS

Thos. W. Harris, Captain.
 W. A. P. Jones, First Lieutenant.
 Joseph Mattison, Second Lieut.
 Jas. L. Autry, Third Lieut.
 B. B. Belsher, Ensign.
 J. D. M. Litchfield, Orderly Sergt.
 R. R. Williamson, Second Sergt.
 C. S. Mattison, Third Sergt.
 B. S. Crump, Fourth Sergt.
 A. G. Mills, Fifth Sergt.
 John Mayer, First Corporal.
 Wm. H. Jones, 2nd Corporal.
 Jas. M. Scruggs, 3rd Corporal.
 Ben A. Waithall, 4th Corporal.
 Addison Craft, Secretary.

PRIVATES

J. W. Braden
 W. T. Watson
 J. M. Spradley
 O. F. Smith
 W. T. Dunlap
 O. L. Bracken
 Clem Read
 I. C. Levy
 O. H. Lumpkin
 J. T. Fant
 Kinloch Falconer
 Philip Nathan
 F. A. Tepe
 Cyrus Johnson
 J. J. Pegues
 John T. Smith
 R. P. Bogan
 S. Sultzbacker
 Rice Ross
 W. P. Curlee
 T. B. Cottrell
 A. L. Crittenden
 Jehu Carroll
 W. H. Bailey

T. L. Sullivan
 James Golrick
 Wm. O. Goode
 W. C. Selby
 Sam Mason Jr.
 J. D. Porterfield
 W. C. Nelson
 Wm. T. Barry
 N. W. Williams
 A. F. Minor
 B. Foby
 R. F. Harper
 S. M. Jean
 M. Keaney
 Dan Eagen
 Antonio Earnart
 A. Clayton
 Isaac McDonald
 W. T. Richmond
 Green Mills
 Thos. A. Falconer
 H. A. McCrosky
 M. C. Pegues
 W. R. B. Hill
 Wesley Ward
 W. W. Bailey
 Joe Arbuckle
 Levi Roberts
 John Crump
 J. P. Fennell
 Alex Houston
 T. M. Bishop
 John Marsh
 John Haley
 Wm. Porterfield
 Wm. Clark
 J. M. Jeffries
 Geo. M. Govan
 Jas. Cunningham
 Geo. F. Mayer
 Frank Neelly
 G. W. Hudson
 Jos. A. Mayer
 Kemp Holland
 Sam Mason, Sr.
 A. S. Harris
 W. J. McQuillin
 J. Buckley
 W. A. Case
 Jas. Connally
 Jos. Milam
 R. J. Hankins
 Dan Ross
 W. W. Sage
 Pat Lee
 J. Malone
 M. M. O'Brien
 Asa Blythe
 T. G. Mullins
 T. L. Bogan
 W. C. Norvell

JEFF DAVIS RIFLES

OFFICERS

Samuel Benton, Captain.
 H. W. Walter, 1st Lieutenant.
 R. L. Watson, 2nd Lieutenant.
 B. Mickle, 3rd Lieutenant.
 W. M. Strickland, 1st Sergt.
 J. L. McWilliams, 2nd Sergt.
 Wm. Crump, Jr., 3d. Sergt.
 N. W. Lea, 4th Sergt.
 Dick Holland, 5th Sergt.
 J. J. Hill, 1st Corporal.
 A. C. McKissack, 2nd Corporal.
 H. H. DeBerry, 3rd Corporal.
 Jas. E. Ballard, 4th Corporal.
 Joseph A. Hooper, Ensign.

PRIVATE

John W. Keeble
 T. J. Keeble
 Wm. Hamner
 W. J. Marcum
 J. C. Willis
 Dan A. Mosely
 John S. Burton
 Chas. N. Powell
 T. H. Gregg
 Wm. Ellis
 J. E. McPherson
 S. H. Gist
 W. F. Redus
 John W. Wright
 I. H. Fennell
 G. W. Powell
 B. F. Hall
 D. E. Clayton
 J. W. Cunningham
 J. W. Wooten
 J. G. McPherson
 F. Caldwell
 L. M. Barrett
 G. W. Duncan
 H. J. Pattison
 P. Matthews
 Wm. Linn
 L. F. Hill
 N. B. Munn
 R. G. Matthews
 T. Powell
 Wiley Spillers
 H. Featherston

C. W. Quinn
 T. G. Wofford
 G. W. Baggett
 H. P. Bailey
 Caleb Little
 Thomas Webber
 E. M. McAfee
 Wm. Dunn
 Jeff. B. Posey
 D. B. Arnold
 Peter Allen
 Jas. Cannon
 T. R. Fowler
 L. E. McCrosky
 D. B. Clayton
 Clifton Dancy
 G. D. Allen
 T. L. Yancey
 T. K. Stillman
 T. J. Wilkerson
 R. E. Walker
 J. W. Knapp
 Hugh Barton
 John Christie
 D. N. Clark
 John Happs
 P. M. Beaty
 G. W. King
 S. P. Crockett
 I. Walker
 P. A. Willis
 W. J. Brinkley
 R. E. Chew
 W. W. Fletcher
 Howard Falconer
 A. L. Martin
 J. M. Kimbrough
 W. A. Raines
 W. H. Willis
 Jas. E. Christie
 O. J. Quiggins
 John Cole
 W. C. Carlisle
 Henry T. Stewart
 G. W. Spillers
 Geo. Grisham
 R. P. Lewis
 A. Powell
 Henry Boothe
 Sam Kelly
 Thomas Reed
 W. D. Cloud
 J. D. Burton

QUITMAN RIFLE GUARDS
Co. F. 9th Mississippi Volunteers

OFFICERS

Robt. McGowan, Jr., Captain.
 Andrew J. Wooten, 1st. Lieut.
 Andrew Balfour, 2nd Lieut.
 Jno. L. McGowan, Jr., 2nd Lieut.
 M. F. Wilkins, 1st Sergt.
 Lawrence Johnson, 2nd Sergt.
 Malcolm McCauley, 3rd Sergt.
 John W. Gallagher, 4th Sergt.
 Jesse W. Wooten, L. C.
 F. F. Tackaberry, 1st Corporal.
 B. L. Abston, 2nd Corporal.
 Jos. H. Smith, 3d Corporal.
 John H. Jeffries, 4th Corporal.

PRIVATE

Wm. Alderson
 Frances Alexander
 John H. Ash
 Hugh J. Baum
 Lem M. Beckerdite
 Alexander Benton
 David R. Biles
 John W. Blythe
 J. J. L. Boggs
 Alfred B. Boran
 John W. Bowen
 F. K. Bradford
 Jas. M. Britton
 A. C. Brown
 Jno. H. Brown
 Jno. Bryan
 Thomas Burns
 Green C. Cooper
 Jacob Cooper
 R. L. Henderson
 D. L. Hogg
 Jacob Jeffries
 John Jones
 Jno. W. Lewis
 J. B. Lurch
 N. McClelland
 R. McGowan Sr.
 Henry J. Mitchell
 Thomas Moore
 P. B. Mowery
 R. L. Musgrave
 Jno. C. Offutt
 John E. Pippin
 Duncan Poe
 J. J. B. Poe
 Jos. H. Poe
 H. L. Porter
 Thos. J. Porter
 Geo. R. Wade
 Wm. H. Walker

Jno. S. Wilson
 S. J. Phillips
 J. S. McGowan
 Wm. R. Cooper
 O. B. Cawthorn
 Edward Cowan
 Thos. R. Cooper
 Emor Coyle
 Michael Dole
 Jas. B. Evans
 P. R. Ezell
 Peter B. Finn
 John B. Gallaher
 Thomas Garrett
 John L. Garrison
 Paul Gentil
 Wm. Gillespie
 B. F. Hall
 J. P. Hall
 John Hamilton
 Arthur W. Harris
 Wilbur Harris
 Seth Harris
 Wm. A. Henderson
 J. Holloman
 J. A. Johnson
 V. A. Lay
 Wm. S. Logan
 James McCall
 Jno. L. McIver
 Wm. T. Mays
 Green H. Moore
 J. W. Morrison
 Jas. F. Puckett
 S. D. Rice
 John Rodgers
 Jacob Rodgers
 Martin V. Rodgers
 Robt. R. Rodgers
 Aaron N. Smith
 C. J. Smith
 H. A. Smith
 Jno. Waggoner
 H. M. Wilson
 R. J. Hankins
 James Cherry
 Wm. R. Coo[k]

Copied from *The Holly Springs South Issue*
 of Wednesday, March 25, 1891.¹

¹ For a more complete listing of Civil War soldiers from Marshall County, see Bobby Mitchell "Roster of Confederate Soldiers of Marshall County, with Some from Surrounding Areas," *Confederate Chronicles of Marshall County, Mississippi* 1 (Holly Springs: privately published, 1998).

5.

NEW DETAILS OF VAN DORN RAID IN HOLLY SPRINGS 72 YEARS AGO.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (January 17, 1935). It was my privilege to have access recently to copious notes made by a representative of a historical society in regard to the Jones, McElwain & Co. foundry as to the part it played in the War of the Sixties, and some new matter as to Van Dorn's raid in December 1862, during which it was destroyed.

The foundry did a considerable business before the war, its major effort possibly being the casting of the material for the Moresque Building in New Orleans, a three-story iron building that covered a block, and bordered on Lafayette Square. The building was destroyed by fire many years ago. It was one of the show places of the city.

The partnership of Jones, McElwain & Co., was entered into by verbal agreement in the spring of 1859, for erecting a foundry, the three equal partners being W. A. P. Jones, E. G. Barney and W. S. McElwain. Later C. H. Athey (more probably J. H.) was admitted, Jones selling him half of his third interest.

From their letterhead of 1862, the name was, "Holly Springs Iron Works, Jones, McElwain & Co., Manufacturers of Iron Fronts, Railing, Railroad and Plantation Works."

In the earlier part of the War Between the States the firm made cannon and small arms for the Confederacy.

The notes quote from *The Confederate Veteran* of May 1924: "The first private firm to be given an arms-making contract by the Confederate Government is said to have been McElwain & Co., Holly Springs, Miss."

KNOWN AS THE ARMORY

The foundry was spoken of in the war correspondence as the "Holly Springs Armory," and the notes quote from an extract of a description

of the armory written by (Judge) J. W. C. Watson of Holly Springs:¹

"Armory building and machinery main front 300 feet long, and two wings 150 feet each; total length 600 feet; two-stories high, by 40 feet wide.

"Blacksmith shop and barrel mill, main building 170 feet long, one wing 130 feet long, 42 feet wide, 18 feet high.

"Forge building, for making wrought iron from scraps, 110 x 80 feet, high. Two air furnaces and stacks.

"Foundry and machine shop value \$239,200. Total amount of indebtedness, including amount loaned by Government, \$100,000, but to cover all contingencies \$130,000."

There are two parcels of land mentioned and valued: 1.50 acres, old foundry, \$600; armory site; 9.08 acres, \$3,700. Also forty acres of land two and a half miles from Holly Springs (definite location not given).

¹ Four days after Fort Sumter, the foundry purchased land on the northeast side of the city on the railroad. J. W. C. Watson handled the sale. Sherwood Bonner gave this description of ceremonies that marked the foundry's conversion into an armaments factory: "Crowds... were outside the building, and as many as were allowed to enter were within. Standing there amid the din and whir of the machinery, while the sooty-faced workmen hurried hither and thither and the great furnace roared and reddened, [we found] the hour pregnant with significance. As the melted ore poured forth, a woman's hand held under it the great iron ladle and emptied it into the mold with the solemnity of a priestess assisting at a holy rite. Every woman and child followed in turn. It was our consecration to the cause—an hour that I cannot remember now without a thrill of emotion akin to that which thrilled me to the very centre of my being as I clasped my hands around the iron handle and felt in that moment I sealed my devotion to the South." "From '60 to '65."

Additional data; frame dwelling for overseer, hospital building for negroes, light frame cottages, four frame cottages, five large brick and cement cisterns, 20-ft. in diameter.

MAKERS OF SMALL ARMS

Jones, McElwain & Co., the proprietors of the foundry decided in the summer of 1861 to manufacture small arms for the Confederate Government at Richmond, and contracted on July 13, 1861, to supply 20,000 rifles and 10,000 rifled muskets.¹

They also contracted with the State of Mississippi in June 1861, to supply 5,000 guns. Their capital was insufficient to finance these contracts, and shortly afterward the Confederate Government advanced them \$20,000; and on October 5, \$40,000 more, bond being made by Wm. Mills, Wm. Crump, Sr., Walter Goodman and J. W. C. Watson of Holly Springs.²

Becoming involved in financial difficulties in the spring of 1862, they sold out to the Confederate Government, and the deeds were transferred June 12, 1862. William LeRoy was sent from Richmond to Holly Springs to take charge.

Holly Springs was never occupied for long by either army.³ The Confederates were falling

¹ Knowing it would be impossible to get gun machinery from Europe, the Jones, McIlwain firm built its own machinery. They worked out the patterns at night and sent them to different foundries around the state to have them turned into machinery. Confederate Secretary of War L. P. Walker wrote Colonel Walter Goodman July 2, 1861, asking if the Jones, McIlwain firm "would likely possess the ability to fabricate such arms as the government requires." Goodman responded that "They are making machinery for the construction of the Belgian or Mississippi rifle, and in one week they will have their machinery ready to roll the barrel, in about the same time will be ready to bore and rifle it. In 60 days they say they can commence the delivery of rifles with bayonets and all complete, and in 90 days can turn out 100 per day. They can procure the best of Tennessee charcoal iron for the barrel and seasoned lumber for the stock." *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (October 18, 1936).

² Watson and the other investors, of course, lost their money on this investment. It was said that Watson, a senator in the Confederate Congress, had to pawn his watch to make his way home from Richmond after Lee's surrender.

³ Holly Springs remained untouched during the first year of the war. Companies of soldiers left for military service, the foundry was converted to a mu-

back east and west from Corinth, and Gen. Beauregard was advised that the Federals were at Grand Junction, and the machinery in the armory was moved to Meridian, then to Mobile, and then to Macon, Ga.

Gen. Sherman followed the retreating Confederates down the Mississippi Central Railroad (now I. C. Road) from Grand Junction, his advance entering Holly Springs June 17, 1862.

Sherman reported to Major General Halleck, U. S. A., that there was at Holly Springs a large establishment for the manufacture and repair of arms, and that from telegrams captured it appeared that the equipment had been shipped to Atlanta, the muskets to Grenada.

COMING OF GEN. GRANT

Gen. Grant, now in command of Middle Tennessee, established a depot of supplies at Holly Springs, preparatory to his move on Vicksburg and on December 5, 1862, wrote: "Railroad now completed to Holly Springs, and will be to Tallasatchie by Monday."

Maj. Gen. Van Dorn's brilliant dash December 20, 1862 into Holly Springs spoiled Gen. Grant's plans. From data I am able to give some interesting history.

Gen. Van Dorn reported from Holly Springs December 20, to Lieut. Gen. Pemberton (the Confederate commander who later unsuccessfully defended Vicksburg):

"I surprised the enemy at this place at daylight this a.m., burned all the quartermaster's stores, cotton, etc., an immense amount. Burned up many trains,⁴ took a great many arms and

nitions factory, and ladies gathered in the Masonic Hall to sew for the soldiers in battle. Still, cotton was planted and harvested, and construction proceeded on the new Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Parsonage, and Heber Craft's Gothic cottage on the town's southern boundary. Events changed in March 1862 as the county made ready to receive casualties from fighting in northeast Mississippi. By June, Federal troops were passing through the city, as the buildup for Grant's Vicksburg campaign began. A description of local life during this period may be found in *Prodigal Daughter*, Chapter 1.

⁴ A Union soldier who arrived in Holly Springs two days after Van Dorn's raid recorded that "Long trains of cars were burned with all their contents and

about 1,500 prisoners. I presume the value of the stores would amount to \$1,500,000. I move on Davis Mill (now Michigan City) at once."

Col. Robert C. Murphy, Eighth Wisconsin Infantry, whom Grant had left to defend Holly Springs, reported: "Had 500 men, two trains in town ready to go, one to south as far as the tank (near the coal chute), the other to the north as far as Coldwater. Six thousand enemy came. Gen. Van Dorn burned up all the stores, depot buildings, armory and ordnance building, and in fact a large portion of the town is in ruins."¹

ARMORY AS A HOSPITAL

Surgeon Horace R. Wirts, U. S. A., who had remained behind at Holly Springs when Grant's army started south, was here when Van Dorn dashed in, and reports three days later—December 23, 1862—that he had remained to establish a large general hospital, and had taken charge of the armory, with six rooms, each 250 feet long and after two weeks hard labor had it prepared for 2,000 patients—"one of the most completely furnished and extensive hospitals in the army was just ready to receive its sick."

He reported that when he discovered that the Confederates were in possession of the place, "I repaired to the headquarters of the rebel general, near town, and made a formal request that the armory hospital should not be burned. I received the assurance from Gen. Van Dorn's adjutant that the armory hospital should not be burned, but that it would be protected by a guard."

This armory hospital contained no patients, and its destruction was a military necessity, as the report said it contained "an immense lot of drugs and surgical apparatus, thousands of blankets, sheets and bed sacks."²

nothing but the irons and trucks stand for almost a mile." "The Civil War Diary of Cyrus F. Boyd." The Mississippi Central Railroad north of Oxford all the way to Jackson, Tenn.—some 105 miles—was out of commission and not used again by the company until after the war.

¹ Kate Bonner called the day "The Glorious, GLORIOUS Twentieth," *Prodigal Daughter*, 13. Cor-delia Scales wrote from Hudsonville, October 17, 1863, "Oh! how I did shout when Van Dorn came into Holly Springs. He made them 'skedaddle'....I was so glad I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Yankee run."

² The foundry was so devastated by various military engagements, that, by 1864, little more than rudi-

Continuing, Wirts reported: "This procedure, in violation of an express promise, and of all the rules of civilized warfare, is an evidence of the barbarity and want of principle of the Confederate officers. But this is not all; an attempt was also made to destroy the general hospital located on the main square, and at which time contained over 500 sick."

A quantity of ordnance stores had been deposited in a building on the next block to the hospital—the barrels of powder and boxes containing shells and cartridges were taken out and piled nearly in front of the hospital and set fire to." I never heard of this "barbarity" before; but Federal hands were by no means clean of "barbarities."

NEWS OF RAID LONG DELAYED

News traveled slowly then and it was not until its issue of January 15, 1883, that *The Richmond Dispatch* contained this news of Van Dorn's raid into Holly Springs:

"The surprised camp surrendered 1,800 men and 150 commissioned officers, who were immediately paroled.

"Extensive buildings of the Mississippi Central depot—station house, engine house, immense storehouses, filled with supplies of clothing and commissary stores.

"Outside the depot the barrels of flour were estimated to be half a mile in length, 150 feet through, 15 feet high. Turpentine was thrown over this and the whole amount destroyed.

"Uptown, the courthouse and public buildings, livery stable and all capacious establishments were filled, ceiling high, with medical and ordnance stores.

"They were all fired, and the explosion of one of the buildings in which was stored 100

mentary blacksmithing was carried on at the once-important Confederate munitions supplier. The humbled status of the former munitions factory was underscored by a note in Belle Strickland's diary, October 31, 1864, that "I went out to the Foundry with Ellen and Lucy after some tacks for Mrs. Watson to tack down her carpet with." *Civil War Women*, 59-60. Today, not even a historical marker remains to mark the site of one of Mississippi's first manufacturing concerns.

barrels of powder, knocked down nearly all the houses on the south side of the square.

"Surely such a scene of devastation was never before presented to the eye of a man.¹ Glance at the gigantic estimates:

"1,809,000 fixed cartridges, and other ordnance stores, valued at \$1,500,000 including 5,000 rifles, and 2,000 revolvers. 100,000 suits of clothing and other quartermaster stores, valued at \$500 thousand. \$1 million worth of medical stores, for which invoices to that amount were exhibited, and 1,000 bales of cotton, and \$600 thousand worth of sutlers' stores."

The report was somewhat incorrect—the south side of the square was untouched, but the east and north sides were destroyed. The courthouse was destroyed at a later date.²

¹ Kate Bonner gave this description of her town's appearance in the summer after Van Dorn's raid: "Rank weeds grew everywhere, and desolation hung over all things like a funeral pall. Where the town-hall had stood was now a shapeless heap of brick and mortar overgrown with nettles and dog-fennel. The door of [Christ] Church had been torn away, and, looking in, I saw the organ bereft of its pipes, the pulpit of its cushions. The seats were broken up, and not a pane of glass was left in the windows. Even in the graveyard the destroyer had been at work: the gravestones were toppled over, and upon the white columns yet standing were scrawled rude jests and caricatures....The school-house was leveled to the ground, but its red chimneys stood, like faithful sentinels, over the ruined pile....The square was deserted, except by a company of small boys, who were marching round it in soldier-fashion, and a few old men with long white hair, who were dozing in the sun. "From '60 to '65."

² Another newspaper gave this account of Van Dorn's raid: "The rapidity with which the tents of the enemy were vacated was marvelous; and impelled by burning torches and rapid discharges of side arms, the Yankees took no time to prepare their toilets, but rushed out into the cool atmosphere of a December morning clothed very similarly to Joseph when the lady Potiphar attempted to detain him. The scene was wild, exciting, tumultuous. Yankees running, tents burning, torches flaming, Confederates shouting, guns popping, sabres clanking; Abolitionists begging for mercy, 'rebels' shouting exultingly, women *en déshabillé*, clapping their hands, frantic with joy crying 'kill them'—a heterogeneous mass of excited, frantic, frightened human beings presenting an indescribable picture, more adapted for the pencil of Hogarth than the pen of a newspaper correspondent. "N'Omporte," "A Full Account of Van Dorn's Brilliant Raid," Mobile, Ala., *Advertiser and Register* (Jan. 7, 1863): 2.

6.

CAME WITH VAN DORN OVER SALEM BRIDGE.

John Miller, of Texas, Visits Holly Springs for the First Time Since He Was in the Famous Raid of 1862, and Describes the Attack.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (June 18, 1931). John Miller, of Texas, was the guest of his nephew, W. B. Newsom, recently on his return from the Confederate reunion in Montgomery.

It was Mr. Miller's first visit to Holly Springs since he rode with Van Dorn in December 1862, in the famous raid into this city during which were destroyed \$2 million worth of ammunition and supplies for Grant's army in the contemplated movement by land against Vicksburg. The raid caused Grant to change his plans and move on Vicksburg by the Mississippi River.

It has been a moot question as to what point Van Dorn entered Holly Springs. All agree that it was from the east, and some say it was by the depot up Church (or Depot) Street, and the name has been changed to Van Dorn Avenue in commemoration of the event.¹ Others say it was further to the north and behind the old oil mill lot—then the Pointer Home.

Mr. Miller said they entered by the Salem Road and over the Salem bridge. Grant, who had started south and got as far as Oxford, had left a regiment to guard the supplies, and they were camped at the old antebellum fairgrounds which covered considerable acreage immediately in front of the Experiment Station brick residence, across the road,² then known as the Hudsonville Road.

The attack came before dawn. Holly Springs men with Van Dorn, familiar with the terrain, were detailed to slip in and capture the pickets on the edge of town through which the main attack passed. The Federal detachment was surprised

and captured, and the work of destroying the military stores went on.

Mr. Newsom took his uncle in his car over the city—he wanted to see everything, especially the old Walter home. It will be remembered that Gen. Ulysses S. Grant made his residence while in Holly Springs in the Col. H. W. Walter home, now the residence of Mrs. M. A. Greene, and Mr. Miller said that Gen. Van Dorn gallantly threw a line of sentinels around the house to allay any fears Mrs. Grant might have of the intruding raiders.

¹ William Faulkner used the Van Dorn raid as a central image in his novel, *Light in August. Southern Tapestry*, 69. A photo of Van Dorn appears in *Southern Tapestry*, 65.

² The Turner Lane residence, site of the present Holy Family School on West Street.

7.

POINT OF ENTRY OF VAN DORN IN DOUBT.**Whether His Raiding Forces in December 1862 Came into Holly Springs via Van Dorn Avenue or Salem Road is Still a Moot Question.**

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (November 4, 1931).¹ Strange as it may seem, with so many people living here at the time and local soldiers even participating in the attack, the point of entry of Van Dorn's cavalry into Holly Springs in his famous raid in December 1862, is still a moot question.

Charles H. Wright tells me that a Federal officer, who was here at the time, Col. Everett, later a lawyer in Toledo, Ohio, told him that the cavalry came up Church Street²—now Van Dorn Avenue—from the depot.

I am inclined to the belief, however, from the terrain and the objective—the sleeping Federals, camped at the old fair ground across the road from the brick residence of the Experiment Station—that Van Dorn, who had camped beyond Chewalla Creek during the night, came west on the Salem Road, detouring before reaching the Salem bridge, crossing the railroad north of the railroad crossing and so on to the fair ground.³

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² Christ Episcopal and the First Methodist Churches have long been located on this street, as has St. Joseph's Catholic Church since the 1970s. Older residents will remember that the First Baptist Church also fronted on "Church Street," at the northwest corner of Spring Street. The small Gothic building was used from 1898 to 1923.

³ A recent scholar concurs with Mickle's theory. See Douglas Hale, *The Third Texas Cavalry in the Civil War* (Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1993): 145-46. Other accounts of the Van Dorn raid include "N'Omporte," "A Full Account of Van Dorn's Brilliant Raid," Mobile, Ala., *Advertiser and Register* (Jan. 7, 1863): 2; J. G. Deupree, "The Capture of Holly Springs, Miss., Dec. 20, 1862," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society* 4 (1901): 49-61. See also Arthur B. Carter, *The Tarnished Cavalier: Major General Earl Van Dorn, C.S.A.* (Knoxville: Univ. of Tenn. Press, 1999).

It would be remembered that the Frisco Road had not been built nor was the country so rough as now, and could be easily traveled.⁴

It is probable that the cavalry that Col. Everett saw was a flanking force sent to clean out the town of any straggling Federals and to close from the rear on the Federals at the fair grounds.

Col. Everett was here about 1916 to get copies of certain papers in the chancery clerk's office, and Mr. Wright, who was the chancery clerk walked out on the south porch of the courthouse with him after their business was finished.

He readily recognized the southwest corner; and the Tyson Drug Store and Strickland building at the southeast corner of the square. He identified the south block and said that in J. K. Shaw's millinery store and one or two others east of Rather's Drug Store were located the paymaster's headquarters and sutlers' stores.

GREENBACK MONEY SCATTERED

The paymaster had charge of multiplied thousands of dollars in greenback money, to pay off Grant's large army—then moving on Vicksburg—and on the day of the raid it was scattered about the store.

Pardon a personal digression—that settles in my mind how far back I can remember. I do not

⁴ Mr. Mickle refers to the catastrophic erosion that followed upon poor farming practices by the cotton planters of the ante-bellum period and continued unchecked until the early decades of the 20th century. Kudzu was introduced in an effort to stem the loss of the area's valuable topsoil. As Hodding Carter explained, "The war had not spared even the rich earth. The erosion which had started because of inability to maintain proper drainage ditches would continue over large areas of Marshall County land for nearly three-fourths of a century." *A Vanishing America*, 68.

remember Van Dorn's raid as an event, but it was the only raid here in which the above incident could have occurred.

I was uptown one morning with one of my elders—I am now convinced that it was the morning after the raid—and we joined a group in one of those stores. The contents were scattered about the floor. Someone, I have a shadowy belief that it was Dr. S. C. Gholson, Sr., picked up a package from a barrel and remarked: "That is their money," and tossed it back.¹

I was born in September 1860; the raid occurred in December 1862.

Col. Everett told Charley Wright that he was quartered in the Strickland building and was aroused before day on the morning of the raid by heavy firing and ran to the drug store corner and peeped around. Confederate cavalry was galloping up Church Street; a bullet clipped a brick above his head and he ran south to the cemetery.²

¹ Maria Mason recalled a similar incident: "The post office on the square seemed to promise a rich booty, and many Negroes sat all day opening letters with the hope of finding money." "Van Dorn's Raid into Holly Springs," *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (May 30, 1901).

² According to Mr. Mickle, the Strickland and Fant law office was upstairs in what was once known as the C. A. Jones building just south of the present Tyson Drug Company, just off the courthouse square. Another description of events connected with Major Strickland's office was given by a member of the 101st Illinois Regiment's drum and bugle corps named F. L. Bristow. He told *The Memphis Appeal* in December 1906 that: "As leader of the post band, I had my headquarters in the deserted office of a lawyer named Strickland, at one corner of the business square in Holly Springs, in front of which we played reveille, guard mount, taps, etc., as our daily military duties....On the night of the 20th of December, 1862, in our fancied security, we peacefully retired to our soldier beds in Strickland's law office....Suddenly we were awakened by the rapid and continuous firing of muskets in the near distance. Quickly six of us Yankee 'musicians' sat upright in our beds, and stared at each other with eyes, ears and mouths wide open. 'What on earth is it?' each one of us instinctively asked of the others, as the firing continued, accompanied by terrible Comanche yells and howls. At last, I found courage to say, 'Boys, I will go outdoors and see what is up.' I cautiously opened the door, walked to the corner of the office, looked down the street toward the railroad depot, and saw what seemed to be a heard of wild buffalo, snorting, mad, all headed toward me at the rate of a mile a minute, yelling,

Passing through the cemetery he crossed the railroad beyond, and hid in the then heavily wooded country until things grew quiet.

Col. Everett at his second visit here represented Toledo, Ohio, defendants in the suit brought by the late Peter Anderson of Memphis, who was heir by entail from his grandfather, of the same name.³

bellowing and shooting, bullets whistling around my heard, and only giving me time to run back into the room, lock the door and breathlessly say to my terrified companions, 'By George, boys, the rebels have got us sure and certain this time.' Before my comrades could make reply our ears were horrified by the following emphatic orders, never before nor afterward issued to us, by friend or foe: 'Come down from there, you d—d Yankees! Lay down those arms and surrender, sir!' Such orders, coming from a thousand Johnny Reb throats, had to be obeyed by those of our regiment, aroused suddenly from sound sleep, and wondering what was the necessity for so much fuss, firing, yelling, cussing, and commanding. So Holly Springs, Miss., with its many millions of dollars worth of supplies of all kinds for Gen. Grant's army, was captured by Gen. Earl Van Dorn's command on December 20, 1862." See *Civil War Women*, 286-287.

³ This account by a cavalry officer, recently published, adds detail to the recollections gathered by Mr. Mickle. James C. Bates, of Paris, Texas, was mustered into the 9th Texas Cavalry in October 1861, and recorded his memories of the Van Dorn raid in a letter to his mother, penned from his camp near Grenada, Mississippi, December 29, 1862. He stated that the night of December 19 "was intensely cold, the ground frozen hard & Sleep was therefore almost out of the question although we had slept but 4 or 5 hours each night for a week past. At 5 a.m. we were again in the saddle—moving noiselessly along. The first plan of attack was as follows—our Brigade was to dismount a short distance from town, form our lines & move in with [Colonel William H.] Jackson's Cavalry on our right and [Colonel Robert M.] McCullough's on our left, get in musket range if possible before daylight & make the attack just at break of day—a company being sent above & below town to cut the railroad & telegraph. The Surprise however was so complete that it was not necessary for us to dismount & just at daylight we charged on the Yankee encampment from two points. Some of them were not yet out of bed, some were making fires—others getting breakfast & still others just sitting down to eat. As soon as they heard our yells & the clatter of our horses' feet most of them took to their heels—a few officers tried to rally their men—but as soon as it was known that 'The Texas cavalry are on us' they even fled. Every man for himself &...such another 'Skeedaddle' I have never before seen. The first Regt we came on was captured almost entire—a few making their escape through adjoining houses & yards. The next two Regts being on

Peter Anderson, I, was one of the wealthy men of Holly Springs in antebellum days. His home was on the block of land on College Avenue on which stand the two Rylee homes and, I think the Ed Rodgers home.

OTHER LARGE HOLDINGS

I do not know that he had any other property in Marshall County, but he owned large holdings in Delta land and a block in Toledo, now in the heart of the city.

Peter Anderson, I, left this property for the use of his son, J. H. Anderson, but entailed it to the third generation, which was as far as the law permitted.

the opposite side of town heard the alarm & got formed. Two-thirds or more of these threw down their arms without firing a gun. The only resistance made of consequence was by a Regt of Cavalry [the 2nd Illinois, stationed at the fairgrounds just north of town]—which had just mounted & were starting on a scout. Our Regt was sent to wait on these gentlemen....Our next business was to destroy all the government property which we could not carry away. Wagons—ambulances—harness, quartermaster and commissary stores, medical & hospital stores, sutlers' goods, &c. to the amount of at least four or five millions of dollars [Van Dorn estimated 1.5 million; Grant only \$400,000] were burned. Our whole division helped themselves to as much clothing as they could wear & carry. Almost every man fitted himself out in Yankee uniforms—boots, hats, caps, pants, shirts overcoats &c and as far as uniforms went we were transformed into Yankee Cavalry. Besides the above we captured not less than 600 or 800 horses & mules—burned some 300 wagon loads of ammunition & after our men had picked out such arms as they preferred instead of their own, we destroyed 6,000 or 7,000 stand of Enfield & Springfield Rifles—Six Shooters & Sharp's rifles went almost begging. The fact is I have never seen such destruction of property in so short a time. After the soldiers had taken as much as they could carry—the citizens helped themselves to whatever was wanted. I got...a hat, coat, shirts & cavalry boots—worth here fifty dollars—a fine pair spurs & a horse—also a splendid silk sash (military)—& sword—the last belonged to a colonel of cavalry, fresh fruits—pickles, preserves, jams, oysters, tobacco, cigars &c were strewn by our men all over town. After the town and vicinity had been scoured and all stragglers brought in, the business of paroling them began and was finished about night. 1,800 privates & 140 officers were paroled...." Richard Lowe, "Van Dorn's Raid on Holly Springs, December 1862: A Texas Cavalry Officer's Account," *Journal of Mississippi History* 61 (Spring 1999): 59-71.

Peter Anderson, II, upon the death of his father, J. H. Anderson, became sole heir, in his own right, to all of this property, which, however, his father had previously sold.

Peter Anderson, II, brought suits upon the death of his father to recover, though he accepted cash settlements, far below actual value, in lieu of the property itself.

The Holly Springs home passed through several hands, being finally bought, with a guarantee deed, by Thomas Rylee, and his predecessor had to make good. It, minus the original house, is still owned by the Rylees.

Lafayette Gatewood of Slayden (Henry Gatewood's father) bought a Delta plantation from Peter Anderson, I.

The Anderson house was of a peculiar type, one-story with eaves extending several feet. Out-houses were of the same type.

James H. Anderson's first wife was Jane Watson, daughter of Judge J. W. C. and Catherine Watson. She and their infant died shortly after the latter's birth and they were buried in the Watson lot in Hill Crest Cemetery.

Mr. Anderson's second wife was Lida Smith, a sister of Mrs. James M. Crump,¹ Dabney H. Crump's mother. They had a son and daughter, Peter and Mamie; the latter died in girlhood.

The Andersons finally settled in Memphis. They have all passed away and are buried in Elmwood Cemetery.

¹ James M. Crump married Miss Caroline Hatch Smith.

8.

GRANT REMEMBERED AT HOLLY SPRINGS.

(From *The Frisco Employees' Magazine*, July 1931.)

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (August 20, 1931),¹ on the Frisco's Southern division, besides proudly boasting that it is 95-years-old, has two buildings in its town of great historic importance. These are the home occupied by General Ulysses S. Grant prior to his campaign against Vicksburg, and the palatial residence used as his office. Both are in a remarkable state of preservation, and their interiors hold furniture of the period of the war. They have lost none of their old Southern heritage of hospitality, and to look at them from the street, is to wish for a view inside.

While these two homes, the Grant home, now occupied by Mrs. M. A. Greene,² and the headquarters occupied by Mayor C. N. Dean and family,³ are perhaps the most historic, Holly Springs is generously supplied with old buildings which stood before the war, and still stand on their original foundations.

The Frisco Magazine is greatly indebted to John M. Mickle of *The South Reporter* for the story of Holly Springs and its historic background. Mr. Mickle was born in 1860, lived in Holly Springs during the Civil War, and is one of the few men in that city with dates and history at his command.

He tells of moneyed interests in Holly Springs which built...one of the largest iron works in the entire country at that time. Besides turning out ornamental iron fences for Holly Springs homes (many of them standing there in a fine state of preservation at this time), this plant made small arms and cannons, later to be used in the Civil War.

Holly Springs was the center of activities during Grant's campaign against Vicksburg, and he had accumulated at this point about \$2 million worth of supplies. These supplies consisted of

ammunition, flour, feed for stock, food for his men, clothing, etc.

The supplies were left in charge of a regiment of men, while General Grant went south toward Vicksburg. Mr. Mickle says that a Rebel spy from the ranks of Brigadier General Van Dorn received a meal in the home of his mother, while getting the lay of the land. And shortly after the main body of Grant's army had started their march toward Vicksburg, Van Dorn dashed into the town with his Cavalry troops. He could not remove all the supplies and so he burned them. The ammunition, stored in what is now the old Masonic Hall, was blown up.

General Van Dorn went to the home where General and Mrs. Grant were residing and entered the home, looking for important papers.⁴ A Mrs. Govan lived in the house at the time. Van Dorn made a thorough search and finally came to Mrs. Grant's private bedroom. Mrs. Govan stood at the door and asked him as a gentleman not to enter her private bedroom. He swept low in a southern bow, left the home, returned to his troops and after burning all houses in which were stored Federal supplies, left town that afternoon.

Hearing of the great loss to his supply base, Grant then changed his plans and went down the Mississippi River. Memphis, Tenn., at that time was in the hands of the Federals and he made that his point of mobilization and moved by boats to Vicksburg where he inflicted a fatal blow to the Confederacy.

A great deal of the town of Holly Springs was destroyed by raids. All empty houses were burned by the Federals. The east and north sides of the square, containing Federal supplies, were destroyed during Van Dorn's raid.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² The house historically known as Walter Place.

³ The home now called "Airliewood."

⁴ Students of Civil War history disagree as to whether it was Van Dorn himself, or a subordinate who went to Walter Place. Mrs. Grant's memoirs, for instance, do not indicate that the officer in command was the intrepid General Van Dorn.

"This little incident might be interesting," Mr. Mickle said. "Neither side, during the war, maintained a post office here. There was a small brick store on the corner named Simpson's store. Two cracker boxes were placed here, one where the Confederate soldiers slipped letters in for the various families from the boys on the front and the other box was used by the families to place mail which they wished delivered to the boys on the front. Any soldier on leave would go the cracker box and see if any of the mail was going to any buddy he knew and if so he would deliver it personally. He usually brought some in to deposit in the other box. It was a slow means of getting messages in and out, but those cracker boxes were never molested."¹

But Mr. Mickle says that the inhabitants of Holly Springs were thrifty and enterprising and after the war ended in 1865 they began to rebuild. Most of the destroyed buildings were rebuilt by 1870.

Another invasion, perhaps more deadly in loss of life than the war, occurred in 1878 when Holly Springs was devastated by the yellow fever epidemic. The population before the epidemic was approximately 2,500, and 500 were lost. Every available building in the town was given over to nursing cases, and from August 31, until November, Holly Springs citizens died by the hundreds. Yellow fever took its toll among the Mississippi Press Association members, taking its president, W. J. L. Holland, a resident of Holly Springs, and four other editors of the state.

The old home, which the General and his wife occupied during the war is now the property of Mrs. M. A. Greene. It is a beautiful type of old southern architecture, wonderfully well preserved, and while the house has changed hands several times, it contains much of the original furniture there during Grant's time. Its ceilings are high, its walls thick, and it has the traditional long winding staircase and the long hallway to the front door. Three huge mirrors, extending from floor to ceiling, are among the most prized possessions.

The home, which Grant used for his headquarters, is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Dean and Mr. Dean serves Holly Springs at this time as its mayor. The huge iron fence around this home was made in the iron works in Holly Springs and is of a most decorative design. This

¹ See also p. 77.

home is spacious and grand, replete with antique furniture of various periods and enhanced by gardens of old-fashioned flowers.

Holly Springs was surveyed in 1836, incorporated in 1837, and its population was mostly of Anglo-Saxon and Scotch-Irish descent. While most early settlers came from Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia, there were a goodly number from the New England states. The town grew rapidly, and the people went about the erection of schools and churches in a most businesslike manner. Some of these old churches stand today, as they were originally built, their ivy-covered walls hiding the cracks which age has brought.

Three fine schools were built before the war,² the Holly Springs Institute, the Franklin Female College and the St. Thomas Hall for boys. Some of the leading citizens of Holly Springs were cadets at the latter college, which was a military one, including Major General E. C. Walthall, of the Confederacy, later United State senator.³ During the war the city of Holly Springs furnished one Major General, about eight Brigadier Generals, and a number of Colonels and Captains to the war.⁴

Holly Springs claims some world-famous characters as its past citizens. Commodore Matthew F. Maury, who served with the old navy when war broke out and who went into the Confederate navy, made charts of navigation which are used at the present time the world around. Russia offered him a handsome fee after the war to come abroad and reorganize her navy. He often visited his sister, Mrs. [Betsy] Holland, who resided near Holly Springs.

² At least four schools were established in Holly Springs before the Civil War. For a fuller account, see *Southern Tapestry*, 16, 20, 21, 29-30.

³ Edward Cary Walthall (1831-1898) was five years old when his parents came overland from Richmond, Virginia, to Holly Springs in 1836. Educated at St. Thomas Hall, he studied law and entered private practice. He served in the U. S. Senate 1885-1898. Walthall Street, which runs past the Holly Springs High School, is named in his memory. See Hamilton, 119-20; *It Happened Here*, 105; Elmo Howell, *Mississippi Scenes: Notes on Literature and History* (privately published, 1992): 118-20; *Southern Tapestry*, 46, 48, 85-86; see photo, p. 96.

⁴ See *Southern Tapestry*, 68.

⁵ Elizabeth Davis Watson named her "select school for young ladies" after the famous Confederate Naval leader.

Dr. J. H. Ingraham, rector of Christ Episcopal Church at Holly Springs, and the author of the famous books, *The Prince of the House of David* and *The Pillar of Fire*, is buried in the cemetery at Holly Springs.¹

A. M. Clayton, lawyer of that city, later became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Mississippi; Roger Barton was the leading criminal lawyer of the state for many years, and

¹ Joseph Holt Ingraham (1809-1860), is one of several Holly Springs ministers who was nationally-known, the others being the Rev. Dr. Francis Lister Hawks, of Christ Church, and the Rev. Drs. Daniel Baker, John Newton Craig, and David C. Rankin of the Presbyterian Church. Besides the two books mentioned by Mr. Mickle, Ingraham, who was born in Portland, Maine, had a varied and colorful life. As a boy, he ran away to sea, later taking part in one of the South American revolutions. He returned home, obtained a college education, and began to write. About 1830, he came south by way of New Orleans, and became a member of the faculty at Jefferson College, near Natchez. There, he authored an influential two-volume account of life in Mississippi, entitled *The Southwest—By A Yankee* (1835), which portrayed southerners and slavery in a more favorable light. Later, while living in Nashville, Tennessee, he wrote *The Sunny South, or The Southerner at Home* (1849), which some believed to be an answer to Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. In Natchez, Ingraham produced dozens of sensational adventure novels, before entering the Episcopal ministry in 1852 and adapting the subject matter of his writing accordingly. He was said to have been the first English speaking author to employ Biblical characters as the source for fictional accounts since the Middle Ages. Ingraham's biblical fiction is cited as the basis for the screenplay in the credits of the M-G-M motion picture, *The Ten Commandments* (1956), directed by Cecil B. DeMille. He also toyed with architecture, designing the beautiful Gothic Revival church at Aberdeen, Miss., which he served just prior to coming to Holly Springs. Beside Ingraham's grave in the Martin Lot, near Hill Crest Cemetery's western fence, is a giant yew, the traditional evergreen of English churchyards—loved as a symbol of immortality. Rare in America, it was brought by a visitor to England and planted by the famous clergyman's resting place. It has recently been given protected status due to its value to the school of pharmacology at the University of Mississippi, where scrapings from its bark have been discovered to contain valuable chemicals useful in the treatment of cancer. See Elmo Howell, "St. John's Church, Aberdeen, and Joseph Holt Ingraham," *Mississippi Home-Places: Notes on Literature and History* (privately published, 1988): 6-7; *Dictionary of American Biography* 9:479-80; Warren G. French, "A Sketch of the Life of Joseph Holt Ingraham," *Journal of Mississippi History* 11 (1949): 155-71; Hamilton, 107-109.

Judge J. F. Trotter, later of the Supreme Court, was a resident of Holly Springs. Miss Kate Freeman Clark is a native of Holly Springs, and her painting, "A Summer Afternoon," is now on display in the Brooks Memorial Art Gallery in Memphis. She is an internationally known artist and has a representation of her work in the New York Public Library also.²

The courthouse in the center of the square, which appears quite modern, is merely the old courthouse, with an addition, and contains the same material, beneath the new outside walls.

For all its modern improvement and its keeping abreast of the times, Holly Springs still follows and represents the agrarian traditions. Its people live as all people must live, on and by the land. It is significant then that a large state experimental station, established in 1904, is located there and its most notable success has been in reclaiming lands from erosion.³

In its natural resources, in civic pride, in handsome buildings, in educational opportunities, in artistic and intellectual accomplishments, Holly Springs rests as readily on its worth today, as on its charming antiquity.

² At the time Mr. Mickle wrote, Holly Springs had only an inkling of the talents possessed by the community's most artistic daughter. In the 1890s, Kate, accompanied by her mother, had gone to New York, where she developed her stunning impressionist technique at the Art Students' League under the prestigious tutelage of the acclaimed painter William Merritt Chase. Even when, after her mother's death in the 1920s, Kate interrupted her career to return to Holly Springs, most in the town had little knowledge of her work, as she was a reticent person and almost all of her canvases remained in New York City, stored in a warehouse. A myth grew later that no one knew of her talent. But after her death, the paintings of Kate Freeman Clark (1875-1957), were increasingly recognized as works of major significance. She left her estate to build a gallery next to her home on East College Avenue in which the paintings are now displayed. Several have been exhibited in museums around the world. See Cynthia Grant Tucker, *Kate Freeman Clark: A Painter Rediscovered* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1981). See information and photos in Miller-Smith, 43, 101; *Mississippi Scenes*, 118-20; *Southern Tapestry*, 154-55, 163.

³The North Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station originally stood on what is now West Street where the Holy Family School is located. It was devoted to reclaiming exhausted and eroded land and improving and diversifying crops. See *Southern Tapestry*, 108.

9.

CAPT. CRUMP'S REPORT OF WAR ENCOUNTERS.

Letter Preserved by Mrs. Myrtle G. Hicks Tells of Exciting Movements of Holly Springs and Marshall County Soldiers Late in 1864.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (March 30, 1933). Mrs. Myrtle Graham Hicks has an old Civil War-time letter written by George McCulloch of Morgan's Cavalry, to his wife, who was sister of Mrs. Hicks' father, Capt. W. T. Ivy of Mt. Pleasant.

The letter, dated from Abingdon, Va., December 31, 1864, has a local connection in that probably all of the soldiers he speaks of were Holly Springs and Marshall County boys. To give his wife the story of their experience Mr. McCulloch quotes bodily the report of Lieut. (afterwards Captain) E. H. Crump who was sent on detached service to keep in touch with the command of Gen. Stoneman (Federal) who had just made a successful and destructive raid into Virginia.

All soldiers mentioned belonged to Morgan's command and Lieut. Crump was one of Morgan's most trusted lieutenants for all such dangerous and important service. Congressman E. H. Crump of Memphis is his son and namesake.

Lieut. Crump, who was a good soldier and judge of men, was equally careful in selecting his men who in this case constituted the advance guard of the army. Those mentioned in his report were John Finley, father of Mrs. Ann Craft, Sam Finley, brother of the late Mrs. M. F. Dunlap, George McCulloch, Henry Smith, Billie Watt, Charles Waring, Billie (W. J. L.) Holland, later editor of *The Reporter* and yellow fever martyr, Bob (R. A.) McWilliams, father of Mrs. Janie Lyon, and Kilgore.

The reporter covered a period from December 15 to 31st, and records thrilling fighting, daring charges and captures of prisoners. Fortune favored the small band, in that while inflicting many casualties on the enemy and capturing

many prisoners, they suffered no loss themselves.

This was Lieut. Crump's way: apparently a daredevil, he was a careful soldier and, as one of this soldiers once said of him, never rode into a trap.

The report mentions turning over prisoners to Gen. Breckinridge, who was a near kinsman of the mother of Misses Lizzie and Cornelia Craft.¹

The first action occurred on December 15, when they heard that a Federal Regiment was in Bristol, Va., and several buildings in flames, but found the main part was about three hours ahead of them.

In the latter part of the war Confederate soldiers were of necessity often compelled to wear Federal uniforms—[Gen. John Hunt] Morgan's men also found them useful as disguises.

Wearing Yankee overcoats Lieut. Crump and party, eleven in all, met a good Union man, who mistook them for Federals, who said there were twenty-five Yankees in town; they also heard they were burning the town. Lieut. Crump ordered a charge and they fired on a squad of Federals.

"Capt. Bailey," reports Lieut. Crump, "who was the scoundrel who set fire to the town with

¹ Mrs. Addison Craft, neé, Frances Breckinridge Young, mother of Misses Cornelia and Lizzie Craft, hailed from Danville, Kentucky, and was descended from the famous Kentucky Breckinridges on her mother's side. The officer referred to was probably Maj.-Gen. John C. Breckinridge. The family home in Holly Springs was the house they named "The Pines," at the southwest corner of South Craft Street and West Elder Avenue, presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Farnsworth.

his own hands, rode up to us and wanted to know 'what in the hell were we firing upon them for?'"

Sam Finley replied with a shot and Bailey dashed away with Finley in pursuit. Finley killed him, and fell heir to a fine mare, saddle, bridle, pistol and saber.

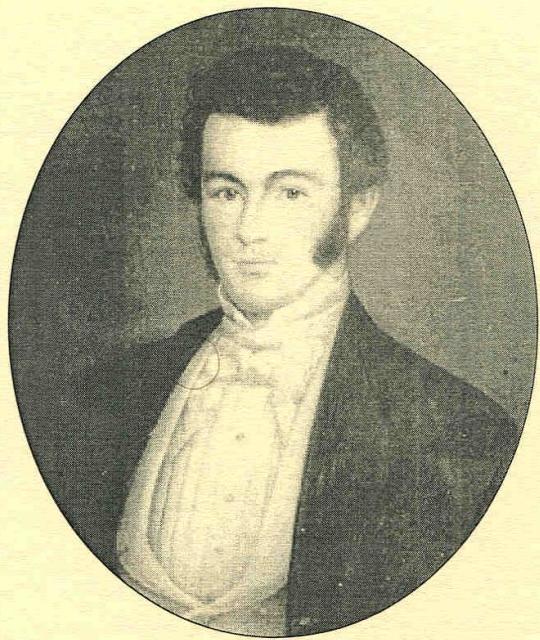
The report states that several of the Federal prisoners escaped and reported to Gen. Stoneman that a heavy rebel force was coming up. He ordered four miles of fencing torn down and formed a four-mile battle front to meet eleven rebels.

Some idea of the suffering and deprivations of men and women during the war is given in a closing paragraph when Mr. McCulloch, writing December 31, tells his wife that he has not heard from her since October 30.

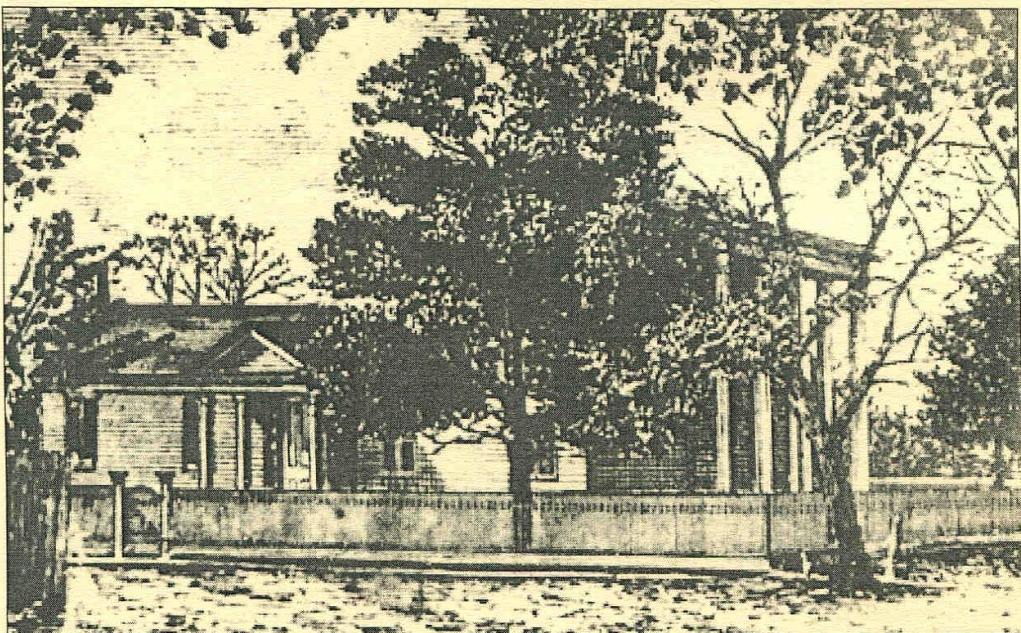
Civil life following the war was sometimes as trying and dangerous as the war itself. A gang of outlaws had established a still and camp in Tallahatchie bottom and were committing many outrages.¹

A determined band of men from and around Abbeville under command of William Graham (Mrs. Hicks' father) set out to break them up. In the melee George McCulloch, author of the letter, was shot and killed.

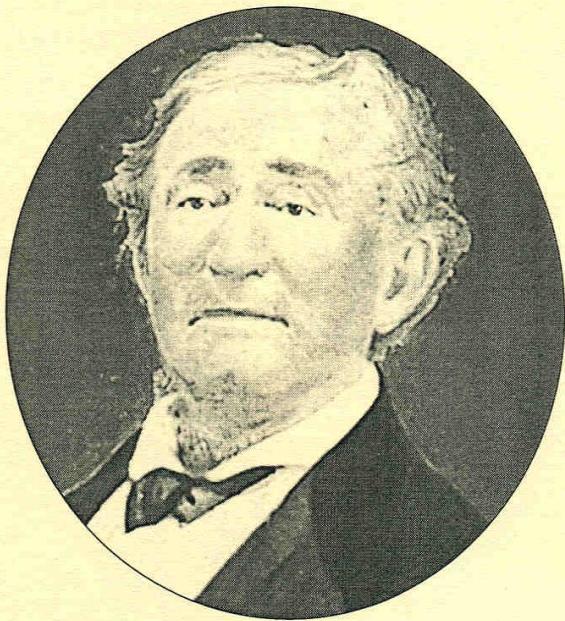
¹ A swampy area along the banks of the Tallahatchie River at the boundary of Lafayette and Marshall Counties, much of which forms the bed for a lake behind the present Sardis Dam. Renegades from this camp may have been perpetrators of the murder of James Henry Nelson, May 6, 1865, recounted elsewhere in these pages. See *Civil War Women*, Chapter IX. See also *Behind the Lines in the Southern Confederacy*, 51-53, 94, 106.



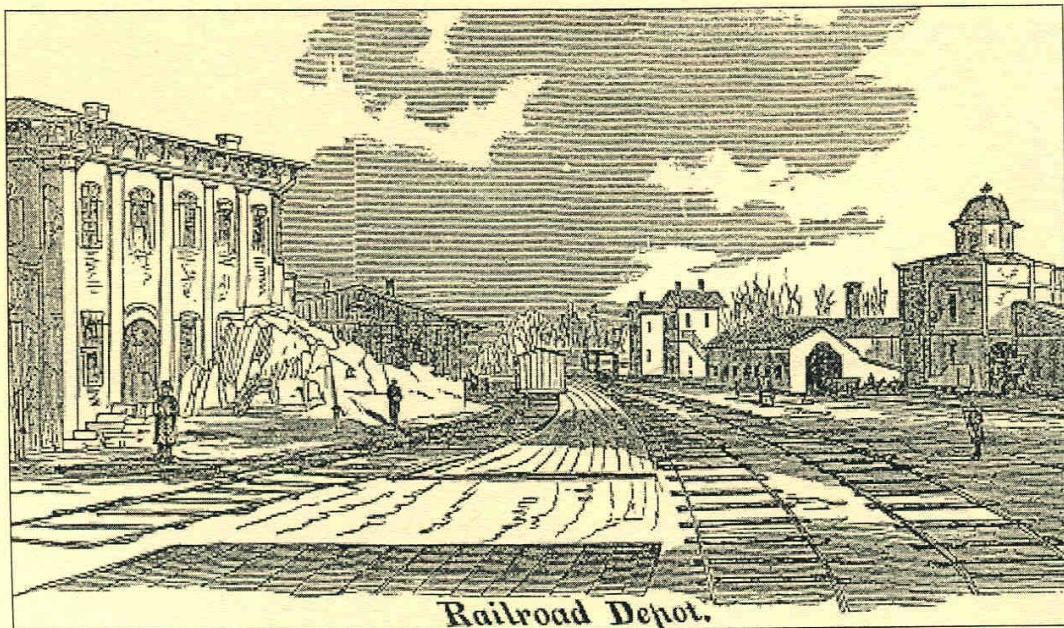
General Alexander Bradford.
Photo from Hubert McAlexander.



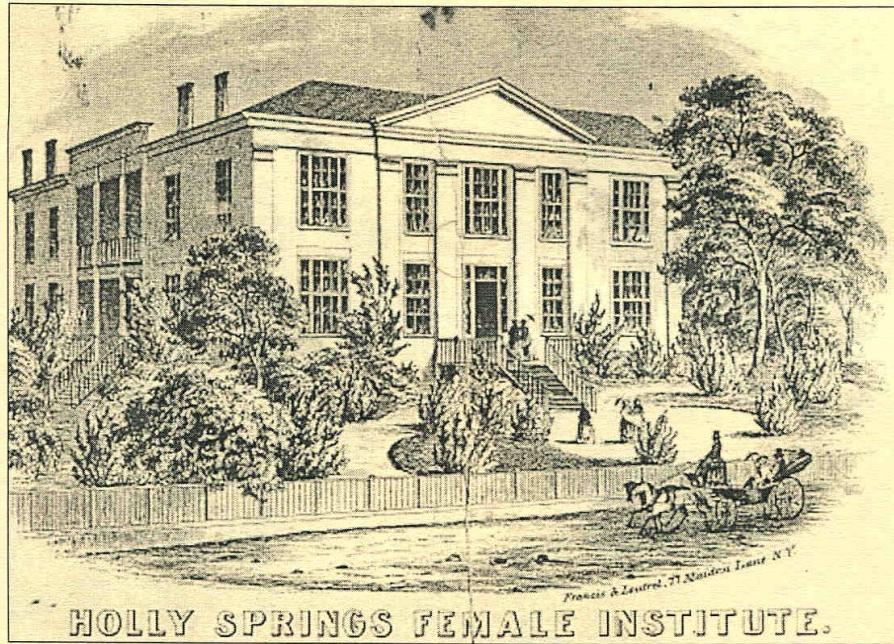
The old Judge Falconer Place, at the corner of Falconer and Maury,
now bricked and known as "White Pillars." Etching courtesy of The South Reporter.



John R. McCarroll, Marshall County's "unbeatable candidate" for sheriff. Portrait from "McCarroll Place."

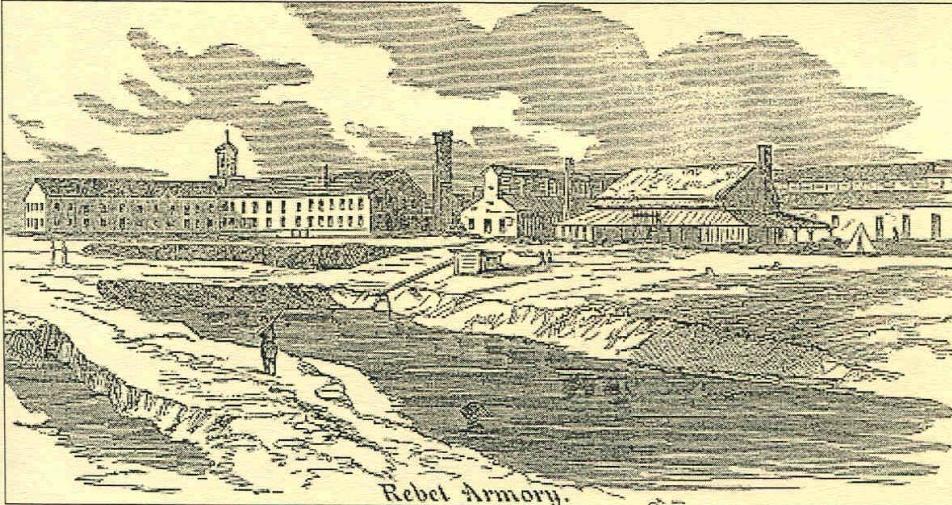


Holly Springs railroad station and roundhouse, sketched by A. Simplot for Harper's Weekly in the autumn of 1862. Mr. Mickle wrote that, "In preparation for his intended march on Vicksburg by land, General Grant had accumulated a vast store of supplies here, over \$2 million worth of clothing, food, feed, munitions, and so on. These were housed where possible, and otherwise piled in the open around the depot." A portion of the depot building at the left survived and was incorporated into the present (1886) depot. Pen and ink sketch courtesy of John N. Bobb.

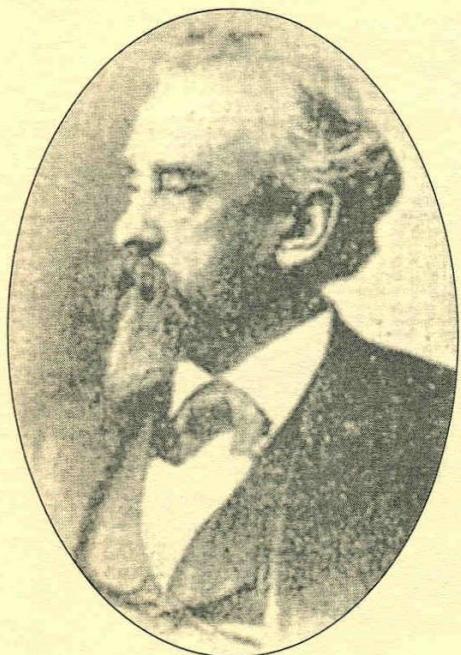


HOLLY SPRINGS FEMALE INSTITUTE.

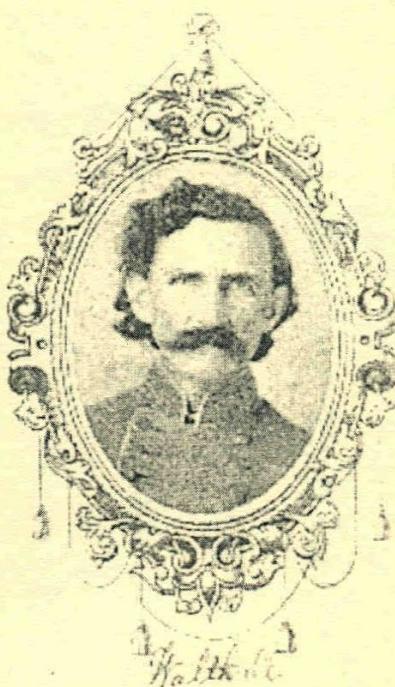
The Female Institute and Park. Holly Springs novelist Kate Bonner remembered the Holly Springs of her youth as a "sleepy, prosperous little town-so pretty that the country papers called it the 'City of Flowers,' and never tired of extolling its exquisite gardens, spacious handsome houses, and dainty park where the young folks walked on summer evenings and fed tame squirrels or made love to each other on the 'swinging seats' under the linden trees." The Female Institute building was used as a hospital for infectious diseases during the Civil War, and afterwards burned by the Confederate authorities. Engraving courtesy of Chesley Smith.



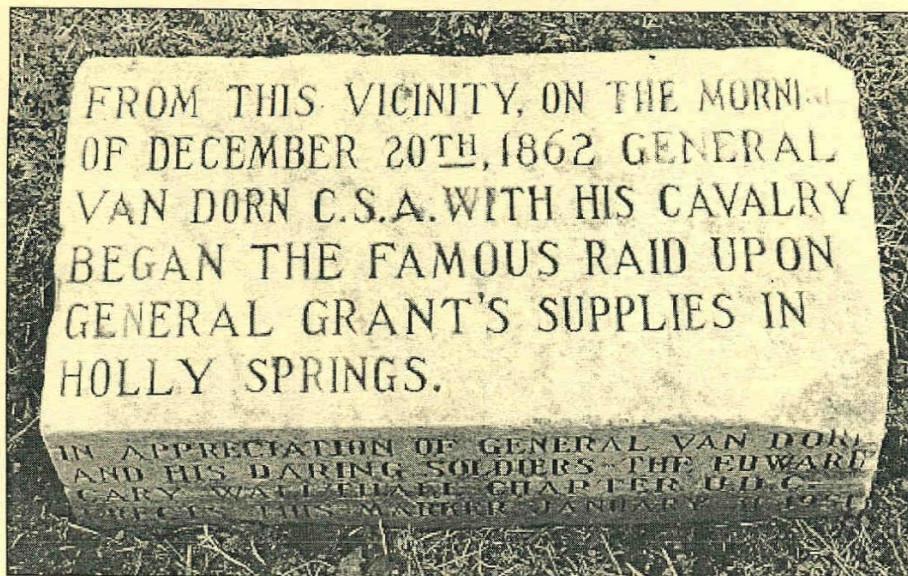
Drawing of Holly Springs Confederate armory facility by Harper's Weekly sketch artist, Alexander Simplot, made shortly before Van Dorn's raid, December 1862. Mr. Mickle wrote that, "Upon the outbreak of the War, the firm turned its attention to the manufacture of firearms for the Confederacy. It is said to have been the first private firm in the South to receive a Government contract. Pen and Ink sketch courtesy of John N. Bobb.



Gen. Claudius W. Sears,
Photo from Mississippi: Heart of the South.



General Edward Cary Walthall. Photo courtesy of William E.
Walthall. Bobby Mitchell collection.



Holly Springs was not a scene of battle during the Civil War. But Van Dorn's raid of December 20, 1862, was an event of considerable military importance. It caused General Grant to delay his assault on Vicksburg for almost six months. For many years this commemorative marker was located at the foot of Depot Street.

It now rests on the grounds of the Marshall County Historical Museum.

Photo by R. Milton Winter.

Chapter IV. Politics.

1.

HOW VOTES WERE CAST IN THE DISTANT PAST.

Old John Mickle, of Ancient Fame, Jots Down Some Notes of the Political Game—Brother, You Should Peruse the Same.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (August 6, 1931).¹ This is primary election time and it naturally suggests a story of the ballots, though it will deal chiefly with regular elections.

In the early days in Virginia no ballots were used and I am not sure but what this plan of voting was transplanted to Mississippi and existed in Marshall County in earlier days.

It is probable no form of registration was used, everybody knew everybody else, and that served. I cannot recall ever seeing any registration notices in any Holly Springs newspaper of antebellum days.

There were judges and clerks and the voter announced the names of the candidates he wanted to vote for. There was no tampering with the election itself, most people were too honest, and the rest assumed the virtue if they had it not.

No attempt was made to guard the election books; if the officers grew thirsty they left the books and adjourned to a grogery and refreshed themselves with a mint julep or toddy.

I doubt if the laws provided a penalty, it was so unthinkable, and if it did occur, the culprit would not be found, what with hot reprisals on the spot—probably tar and feathers and orders to leave town forever.

This generation, bought up on the Australian ballot system, is apt to have the cold shivers at the method of voting—apropos, the present pri-

mary election has been the most tight lipped I have ever known.

TRAGIC CARPETBAG METHODS

The most strenuous, and even tragic, history of the ballots was written during the carpetbag regime, and for some years after. Brought up to regard voting as almost a sacred rite, in the methods necessary to control elections in carpetbag times Southern character was put to its severest test, not even exceeded by the war.

The reaction produced varying results, the better element feeling that there was no playing with pitch without becoming defiled; but many regarded it in the light of a patriotic and highly commendable duty.

The logical result followed, the increasing disregard for the sanctity of the ballot; and thinking men were gravely concerned for the future.

Judge Speed, I think it was, of Vicksburg, a clean-minded patriot Republican, in a speech here said: "Granting that tampering with the ballot was a political necessity under carpetbag rule, where is it to end? And what will be the fate of the coming generation, brought up in atmosphere of disregard for the sanctity of the ballot, when the cause that justified it has been removed?"

This sentiment brought about the passage of a law adopting the Australian ballot system of secret voting, practically the same as now in use, but more rigid in regard to printing the ballots than now.

The ballots used in Tuesday's election were printed at *The South Reporter* office and practi-

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

cally everybody in the office took a shot at them in one way or another.

But not so with the first primary election in the nineties. I was running *The Reporter* then, but I did not see a ballot until I went to vote.

BILL BARRY PRINTED THEM

Old Bill Barry was sworn in by the election commissioners, took some cases of type to the back room, set the job up and ran it off himself on the job press, and he and the election commissioners alone saw it.

But back to carpetbag times. I shall not rehash the thrice told tales of the sharp tricks, but tell a little human history.

Troops were stationed at principal precincts to guard the elections. To the credit of the United States army, or much of it, at the time, be it said it did not relish the nasty job assigned to it by government. The privates hated a "nigger" to a man, and many of the officers were gentlemen, who sensed the situation and sympathized with the South in her troubles.

Marshall County was settled by a high-class citizenship in the main; there have always been ugly characters among them, but the dominant element was a handpicked bunch that set the pace.

The many uncomfortable problems were handled with good sense, diplomacy and tolerance. Even in the hot-headed antebellum days I don't believe a duel ever got as far as an exchange of shots. While there were many tense moments, I don't recall an instance of bloodshed in the stormy carpetbag days. The men were not cowards, but "used their heads."

United States troops were stationed at large precincts, and a company was camped here near Salem bridge. An altercation occurred at the polls, somebody knocked a negro down, and Ben Phillips' brother rushed out to the camp with a story of a riot.

CAPTAIN ACTED COOLLY

Instead of ordering out the troops, the captain dressed leisurely, got his cane and walked up town, accompanied by Phillips. Col. H. W. Walter met him, with: "Why Captain, I am glad you

have come up to see how quietly the election is proceeding." The captain exploded: "Why, this damned nigger," etc. etc.

Ben Phillips was the most intelligent of the two negroes and longed for a broader political field; he went to Shell Mound in the Delta. That was a bloody year for Mississippi, with riots all over, and Shell Mound was the hottest hold. Ben was a wise guy, quickly realized there was no place like home, beat the news back here and was a better boy ever afterwards.

This incident did not occur in Mississippi, but will be interesting. Negroes in those times formed long queues back from the voting place.¹ In this instance four soldiers with fixed bayonets guarded the door and within the anteroom stood the sergeant.

Four negroes were admitted at a time. "Change tickets," commanded the sergeant, and the negroes, who trusted the military completely, would hand over their tickets. The Republican ballots were dropped in a wastebasket and four Democratic tickets given them, which they voted in the next room.²

¹ During the entire reconstruction period, blacks formed more than fifty per cent of the county's population. In 1870, four sevenths of the population was black. The area around Chulahoma had the highest concentration of blacks—an area where many of the old plantations lay. As registered voters in the county, Negroes were in the majority, having 3,669 males over twenty years, while the whites of corresponding age numbered only 3,025.

² Elizabeth Anderson Fant (1852-1935), was a locally famous Holly Springs artist, who lived for many years in a historic home at the southwest corner of Waithall Street and Falconer Avenue now known as the Doxey Cottage. She carved a woodcut for the notorious "Tiger Ticket" that enabled local Democrats to quickly print and distribute a ballot similar to a Republican ballot which non-literate voters had been instructed to mark during the 1875 elections, thus enabling Democrats to regain control of the county's political offices. Ruth Watkins, "Reconstruction in Marshall County," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society* 12 (1912): 186. Mrs. Fant's daughter, Netty Fant Thompson, recorded this story of the incident: "There were no educational requirements for voting, so the Republican Carpetbaggers had to resort to having pictures on their ticket. These were printed in the North and the design was kept a dead secret until voting time; consequently the Democrats lost the elections regularly. Just before the election of November 187[5], the young men of the Democratic party, determining to fight fire with fire, became a party of

The election was a one-way street in that town that year.

amateur detectives, maneuvering to discover what picture-ticket the Negroes had been instructed to vote. In the afternoon before election day, some one of them, by hook, crook, or bribery, came in possession of a Republican ticket and on it was the picture of a tiger. Time was short and they wired all over the country in an effort to locate a woodcut of a tiger, but without success. Finally, Arthur Fant, a young lawyer said, 'Don't give up, boys, my wife can do anything; wait till I come back.' His young wife, scarcely more than a girl, had never had an art lesson, nor had she ever seen a woodcut, but she had great talents, combined with much determination. With the Republican Tiger proped in front of her, a block from repairing the porch and a broken knife blade, she set to work. When the proud husband carried the finished product to the newspaper office, they were all in readiness and spent the night printing rather crude tigers on pink tickets. With the morning, grim young riders mounted their fastest horses and with pockets bulging with tiger tickets, they hurried to the various voting precincts in Marshall County. Believing that all was fair in war, they would approach a Negro and ask to see his ticket. The Negroes were proud and happy to show their tickets, and they always received a tiger ticket back—but invariably it was a different breed of tiger that had crept into the fold. When the ballots were counted, the Democratic landslide was a source of much bewilderment to the Republicans. But the yoke of reconstruction was off, never to return. It is true the tigers were going in opposite directions, due to the artist's ignorance of printing methods, but that difference was accepted as symbolical of the opposing aims of the two parties." Thus the black population of Marshall County was deprived of suffrage for almost a century. "How Reconstruction was Effected," *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 40; See *It Happened Here*, 106; *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 84.

2.

SECOND CONGRESS DISTRICT ONCE INCLUDED DELTA.

Holly Springs South of Sixty Years Ago This Month Given Account of Convention Held in Grenada—No Candidate Nominated.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (September 26, 1935). It will be of interest to know some of the counties composing the Second Congressional District in 1875, for evidently all were not represented at the convention when met in Grenada, September 4.

This information is taken from *The Holly Springs South* of Thursday, September 9, 1875, out of an old file.

The second District was partly in the Delta, "The Bottom," as they called it then, or sometimes "The Swamp," and touched the Mississippi River.¹

The credentials committee reported the following counties represented: Marshall, DeSoto, Tate, Panola, Tunica, Bolivar, Leflore, Carrollton, and Grenada.

Gen. W. S. Featherston of Holly Springs, permanent chairman, was not present, and Capt. R. H. Taylor of Sardis was elected chairman, and

¹ Holly Springs diaries are replete with references to "the bottom." Emma Finley, for example, told of a trip by her Uncle Ebenezer Davis, of "Strawberry Plains," to the Delta, no doubt to check on farming interests there: Aug. 11th. [1859] Strawberry Plains. We've been here since Sat.- found Aunt Martha very sad & low-spirited- the babe's innocent prattle is wanting. We have been to the beautiful spot where rests her little body. Uncle Davis started for the bottom Monday & will not return before the last of the week." On another occasion, she told how a friend came by to bid the young belles farewell before he set off on a hunting trip. "December 20, 1858: Wed. evening, Dick Holland came to see us and tell us 'Good-bye' as he was ready to be off for the bottom." Apart from small towns at Greenwood, Greenville, and Yazoo City, and a few plantations perched on ridges by the bayous, the territory was little more than a swamp dangerous to enter in warm weather because of mosquito-borne diseases, but a good place to hunt deer and all sorts of exotic wild game in winter. *Our Pen Is Time*, 5, 46.

James H. Watson, of Holly Springs, secretary. The convention decided not to nominate a candidate for Congress, but adjourned subject to the call of Gen. Featherston.

James T. Fant and James H. Watson represented Marshall County, and two former Marshall County men, Gen. E. C. Walthall of Grenada and Maj. H. H. Chalmers of DeSoto County, were members. James T. Fant is announced as candidate for re-election as district attorney.

CAPT. MATTISON WELCOMED

There are few locals [that is, "personal notices"] in the paper. "We are glad to welcome back to our city Capt. J. B. Mattison and his excellent family. They have been residents of Crawfordsville, Indiana, for several years, but becoming dissatisfied, returned to their old home last week."²

Other persons note that Col. D. B. Wright of Benton County is a visitor; and that James Trousdale has returned from Texas to make his permanent residence here; and that H. C. Smith has gone to New York to purchase a stock of

² Joseph Bowen Mattison, born in New York City in 1836, moved to Holly Springs in 1857 from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he had been reared. During the Civil War he served on the staff of Gen. Leonidas Polk, the "fighting bishop" of Louisiana, whose brother, Thomas Polk, lived in Holly Springs. Captain Mattison was one of several who left Holly Springs to earn a living after the Civil War. From 1858 to 1871, the Mattisons lived in the home at 310 West Chulahoma Avenue, now known as "Cuffawa," and presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis M. Greer. Later, they rented the place now called "Alicia," the home of Miss May Alice Booker at 240 West Chulahoma, and still later, lived in the house at the corner of North Maury Street and East Falconer Avenue, now called "White Pillars." Captain Mattison died in 1910. He was clerk of the session in the Presbyterian Church for many years. *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 326-27.

gents' furnishing goods;¹ and that I. C. Levy is just back from New York from a purchasing trip for I. C. Levy & Co.,² and that James Stark of the firm of McNamee & Stark, merchant tailors of LaGrange, Tenn., was in town with samples. Mr. McNamee's son, Robert G. McNamee, opened a shop in Holly Springs in 1878, and remained here until his death in 1904.

C. G. Bell, the photographer, is to be absent for some time, but will leave his gallery in the hands of two skillful and experienced artists, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson. My guess is that these were parents of Tom and Martin Robinson; and if so they bought the shop later.

I. C. Levy & Co., then located on the northwest corner of the square, on the site of the Pythian-Odd Fellow building, received two bales of cotton; the first from James Davis Esq., of near Red Banks, classed middling and sold at 20 cents. He and his employees went their way rejoicing over a five-gallon keg of fine bourbon whiskey. The second bale, classed as middling, was raised by J. E. Teel of Mt. Pleasant.

J. E. Futrell, O. F. Eddins (father of John M.), J. L. Harris, L. J. Capel and J. H. Alley are a committee for the business men of Byhalia who offer premiums of \$25, \$15, and \$10 for the first three bales of cotton raised within ten miles of Byhalia.

¹ Although stores advertised large inventories, shoppers usually found only a small range of goods from which to choose. Items were kept behind counters, and customers had to ask clerks to display each one. See Ted Ownby, 7-16.

² The I. C. Levy Store was Holly Springs' finest clothing emporium. In a later generation Chesley Smith recalled that ladies wore hats and gloves to go shopping in the afternoon. "Little girls were also properly dressed when accompanying their mothers. Levy's, established in 1858, was a high-class store with fine fixtures and merchandise as good as could be found in Memphis. They carried ladies' ready-to-wear millinery, and dry goods on the first floor, shoes toward the rear, and men's suits, coats, and hats upstairs." She remembered "Uncle Amos," a black man who drove a small buggy making deliveries for the store. "He was a kind old colored man, light in color and permanently bent at right angles, so he had to sit practically on his back to see where he was going." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 75, 87.

COUNTY CONVENTION MEETS

The county convention to nominate county officers met Tuesday, and elected Col. Jno. B. Fant president, and W. A. Jones and N. A. Taylor secretaries and adopted the two-thirds rule.

The paper states that the nominees may be found in another column, but the only names I find are in the candidates column, and these may be the nominees. These names under the head of the "Marshall County Democratic-Conservative Ticket," are:

W. S. Featherston, J. H. Amacker, W. C. Warren, Ed Aldrich for legislature; Henry C. Myers, sheriff, B. W. Walthall, chancery clerk, Geo. B. Myers, circuit clerk, K. W. Childress, assessor, James T. McKinney,³ county treasurer. P. J. Echols, surveyor, Clem Read, coroner and ranger.

This was the convention that split the Democratic Party in Marshall County, and two years later an independent ticket was put out in which Will Walker was elected sheriff. It remained in session from noon until midnight.

Senator John B. Gordon of Atlanta and Col. L. Q. C. Lamar of Oxford spoke here Monday to an audience of around 1,800 in the interest of Democratic supremacy.

The firm of Smith Bros., is dissolved, C. P. Smith retaining the business, and H. C. and L. A. Smith retiring to open a gents' furnishing store in the same building.

Chalmers Institute opened September 6, with W. A. Anderson⁴ and W. M. Rogers princi-

³ He built the Bryant House at the northwest corner of South Randolph Street and East Gholson Avenue, presently known as "Graceland Too."

⁴ William Albert Anderson (1842-1923), was a leading figure in the Holly Springs educational enterprise for a generation. Born at Hudsonville, Mississippi, the son of John Harmon and Lee Ann Ridley Haggard Anderson, he was reared in a devout Presbyterian family that had come to Marshall County with the original white settlers in 1836. He was educated at Chalmers Institute, after which he was graduated from the National Normal University in Lebanon, Ohio. He served in the Confederate army, after which was principal of Chalmers for ten years until it closed in the yellow fever epidemic. He then served for fifteen years as principal of the city's public school. On December 22, 1880, he married Miss Helen Craft, daugh-

pals. Mr. Rogers attended Washington and Lee University when Gen. Robert E. Lee was at its head.

ter of Hugh and Elizabeth Collier Craft, a founding family of Holly Springs. After Chalmers closed, the Andersons lived in the old school building, arranging it as a home, which they named "West End." *Mississippi: Sketches*, 3:37-37, Hamilton, 80-82; See information and photos, Miller-Smith, 59; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 341; and *Southern Tapestry*, 82, 116-17.

3.

'TURN RASCALS OUT' SLOGAN HERE IN 1875.

Hot Political Campaign Against the "Carpetbaggers" Told in Old Copies of *The South* of September, More Than Sixty Years Ago.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (October 3, 1935). There was a hot political campaign on in 1875—"turn the radicals (carpetbaggers) out" was the slogan—for political news absorbs much space, and I will have to borrow from *The Holly Springs South* of September 16, 23, and 30 for a variety of news.¹

The South is published by John W. C. Watson and Henry C. Myers, and Mr. Myers states in September 16 issue that as he is now the Democratic-Conservative nominee for sheriff, he will have no editorial connection with the paper during the campaign.²

The Democratic Conservative Party in Benton County have nominated a county ticket. Descendants of two nominees, Winborn and Hudspeth, are honored citizens of Holly Springs. The ticket was:

W. A. Crump, legislature, J. W. Winborn, sheriff, Wm. Ayers, circuit clerk, Wm. Hudspeth, chancery clerk, M. D. Robinson, treasurer, B. F. Embrey, assessor, Douglas Dickerson, surveyor. Capt. C. C. Terry was nominated at the

¹ It is a truism that the stresses of reconstruction left a more bitter legacy for white citizens than did the Civil War. Some, however, made their peace with the times and prospered. See Ruth Watkins, "Reconstruction in Marshall County," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society* 12 (1912): 155-205.

² Henry C. Myers was an important local Democratic leader. Born in North Carolina, he moved to Holly Springs in 1854. During the Civil War, he fought with the Second Missouri regiment. He spent three years after the war at the University of Mississippi. Myers was one of the organizers of the Ku Klux Klan in Marshall County, and when the Democrats regained power in 1875, he became the county sheriff. Upon the death of his friend Kinloch Falconer in the yellow fever of 1878, Myers became Secretary of State for Mississippi, an office which he held until 1886. He married a daughter of Col. Harvey W. Walter. "Reconstruction in Mississippi," 160; Hamilton, 115.

Ripley convention for state senator for Tippah, Benton and Union Counties.

The Holly Springs Dramatic Association will repeat "Guy Mannering"³ at the Masonic Hall Tuesday evening.

HOW THEY PLAYED BALL

Early Grove 35, Mt. Pleasant 26 was the result of a ball game at Mt. Pleasant Saturday—and they could catch 'em out on the first bounce then, but taking them off the bat and masks were unknown.

"The voters have before them the question, shall the rule of Adelbert Ames, A. K. Davis, Cardoza, Gill, Wells & Co. be tolerated?"

Married—At the Lunatic Asylum, Jackson, Miss., by the Rev. John Hunter, Dr. James McWillie, assistant physician, to Miss Nannie L. Compton, daughter of Supt. (Dr.) Compton. (Dr. Compton moved back to Holly Springs and died here of the yellow fever of 1878.) The bride was sister of the late Will Compton, her mother a sister of the late Mrs. James Sims.

C. A. Stephenson, age 14, youngest son of C. C. Stephenson of near Chulahoma (grandfather of C. C. Stephenson Sr.), died at the parental home. His mother died when he was only a few months old.

From *The South* of September 23:

³ The play, based on Sir Walter Scott's best selling novel, recounted the dramatic rescue of sailors off the coast of Iona in Scotland by local citizens, December 31, 1865, who formed a human chain out into the sea when the American schooner "Guy Mannering" wrecked off the coast of this small Hebridean island. Nineteen sailors were pulled to safety, and the fifteen who died lie buried in the ancient cemetery of Scottish kings that lies beside the ruins of the ancient Abbey Church there.

Married, in Macon, Miss., Sept. 9, by the Rev. J. D. Cameron, the Rev. J. W. Lowrance of Holly Springs to Miss Simmie A. Dillard of Macon. Mr. Lowrance was pastor of the Methodist Church here.

W. Logan Walker has opened a dry goods store next door to his grocery in the southwest block, with Capt. J. B. Mattison (recently moved back from Indiana) in charge. The grocery was in the McDermott Café and the dry goods, in Witjen building.

Brodie S. Hull of Scruggs, Hull & Finley, and R. E. Chew of Roberts, Anderson & Chew have returned from a buying trip to New York.

You had to get up early to catch some trains on the New Orleans, St. Louis & [Chicago] Road (now I.C.R.R.), southbound 2:35 a.m. and 4:10 p.m.; northbound 3:27 a.m. and 12:40 p.m.

Jas. H. Watson Esq., will address the Central Democratic-Conservative Club at its regular meeting Monday night.

UPRISING IN NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans was perhaps the most corrupt and badly overridden city in the South in Carpetbag days, culminating in a popular uprising in 1874, in which many died. *The South* notes that Sept. 14th was observed in New Orleans as the anniversary of the uprising; a requiem mass was celebrated at 7 a.m. at St. Louis Cathedral for the repose of the souls of those who fell, and hundreds visited the tombs of the martyrs which were profusely decorated with flowers.

Judge Gordentia Waite has returned from visiting his old time friends at Wartrace, Tenn.

Prizes offered by the Byhalia merchants for the first three bales of cotton raised within ten miles of Byhalia were awarded to Mr. Thompson, on A. Mucklerath's place; Major Withers, a colored man, received second prize and Mr. Cooper of near Watson,¹ third. Scott Whitaker a colored man, brought in the second bale, but his was not up to weight; however, he received a complimentary bonus.

¹ A small farming community six miles south of Byhalia. Emory Methodist Church is located here.

A rousing Democratic-Conservative meeting was held at Red Banks Wednesday night attended by 300 white and black voters, who listened to a two-hour speech by J. H. Amacker of Byhalia. A club was organized with Frank M. Norfleet (later of Memphis) president, John R. Goodwin, vice-pres., and H. Oscar Rand² (later of this city), secretary. Col. Van H. Manning and A. Fox Moore of this city will address them next Wednesday.

DEATH OF M. H. HARPER

M. H. Harper, aged 69, died Aug. 17 on his plantation, six miles south of Holly Springs, on which he settled in 1842, though he came here in 1838. His wife, who was Miss Susan L. Coleman, survives him. Having no children, he voluntarily assumed the parental relation of four fatherless children of a near relative of his wife, among whom were Robert and Will Coleman.

E. N. Kilpatrick, aged 60, died Sept. 27 at his home in Holly Springs. He was buried with Masonic honors.

Col. Clifton Dancy and his lovely bride of New Orleans, are visiting relatives.

While riding in a wagon Monday Isaac Cunningham was thrown off and his leg broken.

Thomas Winborn, formerly of Holly Springs, but now of Hickory Flat, was thrown from a wagon Monday and his leg broken.³

² Oscar Rand was a founder of the cotton compress and warehouse in Holly Springs. Rand's home was the house acquired by Jesse P. Norfleet in 1861, that stands at the northeast corner of East Park Avenue and North Maury Street. During the 1880s and '90s, the house was occupied by Mr. Norfleet's daughter, Ada and her husband Oscar Rand. They subsequently moved to St. Louis where the Rands and their relatives Jackson and Oscar Johnson were founders of the International Shoe Company. The home was later owned by Mr. and Mrs. L. L. ('Nick') White, who in remodeling the place found a secret attic which contained two fine old rocking chairs. *Memphis Press-Scimitar* (April 15, 1938); *Southern Tapestry*, 85.

³ Traveling the roads of North Mississippi called for bravery. John Hebron Moore wrote that, "cotton moved slowly as oxen strained to pull the heavy bales along dirt roads that became bottomless quagmires after the first autumn rain." Indeed, muddy roads were the bane of rural life. It was said that even buzzards flew at their own risk, for their shadows were liable to mire in the muddy roads. Cotton also was damaged by

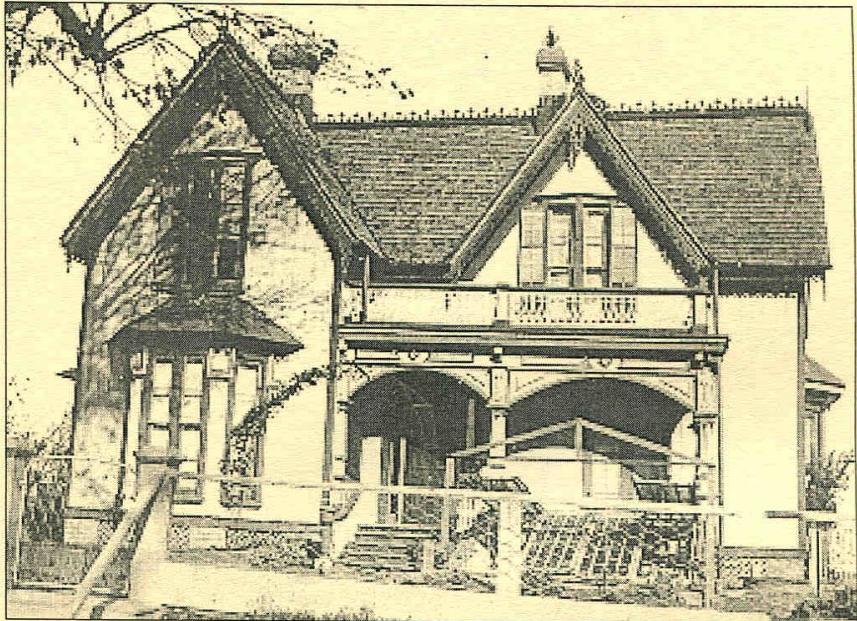
The 3rd U. S. Infantry, quartered here for the summer adds much to the social life. Officers will give a reception and dance at Masonic Hall tomorrow night; floor managers: Maj. J. H. Page, Lieut. W. Krouse, Lieut. F. W. Roe, Lieut. H. M. Henry, Asst. Surg. M. E. Taylor and Lieut. F. B. Jones.

Democrats and Conservatives held large meetings Friday and Saturday at Byhalia, Mt. Pleasant, Wall Hill, Waterford, Pine Mountain and other places. Speeches were made by Van H. Manning, W. S. Featherston, J. W. C. Watson, E. W. Upshaw, Ed. Aldrich, Jas. H. Watson, John B. Tunstall, A. Fox Moore, Jennings Topp, W. M. Strickland, Jas. T. Fant, J. M. Scruggs and Eagleton Smith.

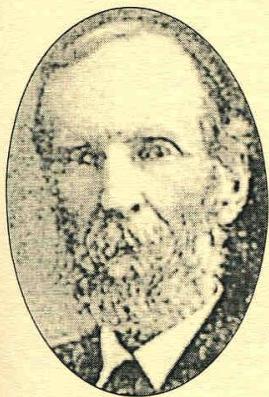
The following ticket was nominated in the Republican primary election: J. M. Suggs, col., circuit clerk; Jno. Mahon,¹ chancery clerk; John Record, treasurer; A. R. Frazier, assessor; Dugald McIntyre, surveyor; Robt. Cunningham, col.; S. B. Jennings, col., Rafe Williams, col., P. J. Smith, legislature. With Nelson G. Gill, for sheriff, this completes the ticket.

this means of transport, dragged behind slow-moving teams in all kinds of weather. Mules, oxen and travelers perished in the effort." *The Emergence of the Cotton Kingdom in the Old Southwest*. In a diary entry dated August 1858, Emma Finley referred to the region's "rough sometimes corduroy roads." *Our Pen Is Time*, 9.

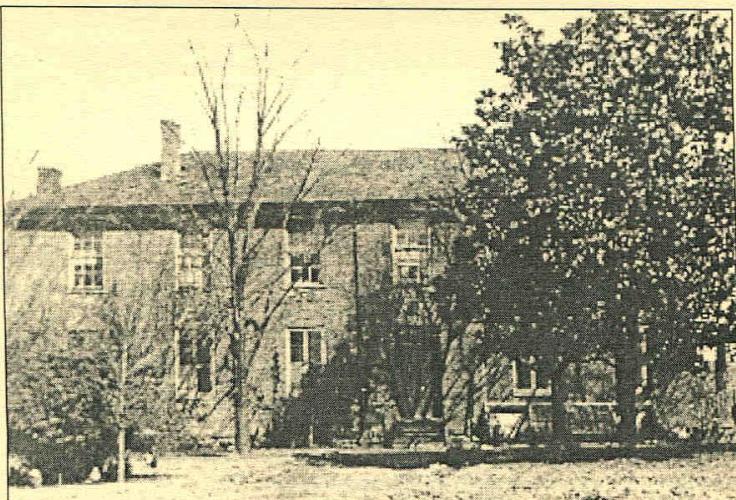
¹ An ex-Confederate who embraced the Republican Party. He was deputy sheriff under George M. Buchanan. Hamilton, 41.



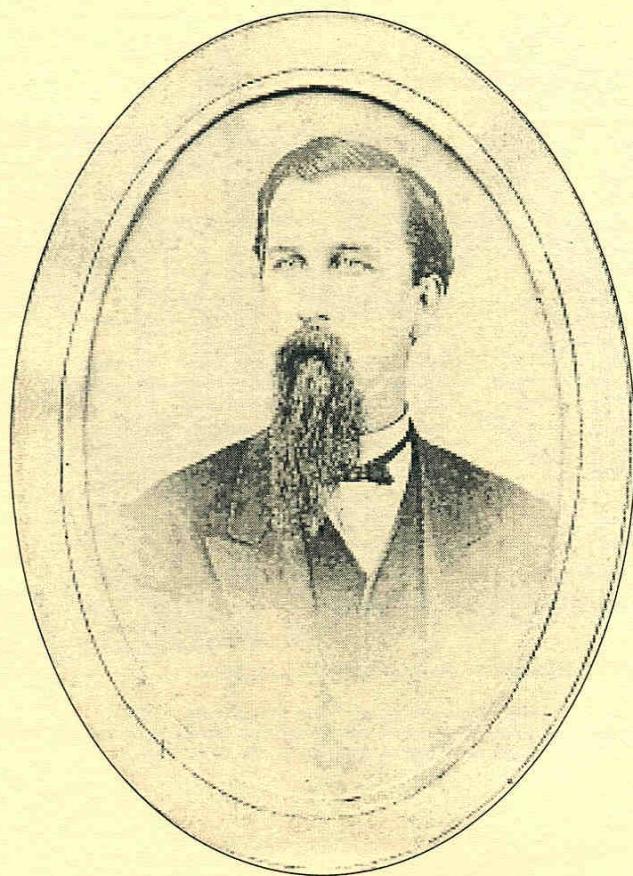
The Crump-Fant cottage on West Chulahoma Avenue,
where Lizzie Anderson Fant lived when she carved the locally famous tiger woodcut.
Lem Johnson photo. Chesley Smith collection.



William Albert Anderson,
master of Chalmers Institute,
whom Mr. Mickle called him,
"a most likable man, and the
most just and impartial teacher
I ever knew."



The Chalmers Institute Building near the corner of Chulahoma and West Boundary
Streets. Chesley Smith collection.



Henry C. Myers.
Photo from the Walthall-Freeman scrapbook,
Marshall County Historical Museum.

Chapter V. Yellow Fever.

1.

SMALL BRICK HOUSE RELIC OF OLD DAYS.

Building Long Known as the "Land Office" Played Part in the Tragic Experience of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (May 1, 1941). The small house on the opposite side of the street from the front door of the Presbyterian Church would never suggest history-making epochs and experiences, but it played a part in the pioneer days of Holly Springs and Marshall County, and the tragic experience of the yellow fever epidemic of 1878.¹

It was known up to a few years ago as the "land office," and that must have been the first use to which it was put, though that was long before my time.

Some years ago the entrance was changed to front on Gholson Avenue. Before that it faced the Presbyterian Church. It had a front porch, railed in, and rustic gates.

The gates may have been a part of the architectural scheme, or possibly an involuntary gesture of the individualism of the times. Men of those days were strong on individualism and jea-

lous of their rights and liberties. They stood a great deal of invasion and imposition in those days out of a sense of politeness, but they liked to have some safeguard to use if they felt like it—hence, probably, the gates.

It was one of many two-room buildings that lined several streets just off the square and were used as bachelor quarters or offices for doctors and lawyers. They were more numerous on South Center Street, and the only one left, the frame building across the alley from the rear of the Rather Drug Store building, was the law office of the late Judge Jeremiah W. Clapp of Memphis.²

SON MAYOR OF MEMPHIS

Judge Clapp³ lived in Holly Springs until soon after the war and then moved to Memphis. He built and occupied the colonial home⁴ on Salem Avenue where the Lester Fants live. His son, Lucas Clapp, was the first of the two may-

¹ While yellow fever epidemics had been part of southern life throughout the nineteenth century, the 1878 epidemic was one of the most virulent. Killing at least 20,000 it spread from places like New Orleans that were familiar with the disease to points as far north as southern Indiana, which had never faced this plague. While there is no doubt that much hardship and suffering came to Holly Springs in the Civil War, the yellow fever in 1878, termed by one historian as "one of the great medical disasters of American history," claimed more casualties and exacted a more devastating toll. John H. Ellis, *Yellow Fever and Public Health in the New South* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1992): 56. Accounts of the yellow fever in Holly Springs may be found in Hamilton, 48-51; *A Vanishing America*, 72-73; *Prodigal Daughter*, 116-18, 140-42, 145, 150, 152; *It Happened Here*, 75-75, 77-82; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, Chapter 13; and *Southern Tapestry*, 70-72.

² See photos, Miller-Smith, 97, 120; *Southern Tapestry*, 81.

³ Jeremiah Watkins Clapp (1814-1898), was born at Abington, Virginia and educated at Hampden-Sydney College, who began a law practice in Holly Springs in 1841, had come to the Chickasaw purchase to make his fortune. A skilled orator, he traveled widely, and later served as a member of the Confederate Congress (1862-1864). He was for fifteen years a trustee of the University of Mississippi. See Hamilton, 101; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 75; *Southern Tapestry*, 47.

⁴ As was fashionable in his day, Mr. Mickle uses "colonial" as a designation for Greek Revival. See "The Greek Revival Architecture of Holly Springs," 46.

ors Holly Springs furnished Memphis—the other being the Hon. Edward Hull Crump.¹

Holly Springs was headquarters for the Mississippi Central Railroad from the period of its construction in the early fifties until the war. In the eighties after various changes the road became a part of the Illinois Central system.²

The Mississippi Central was the pioneer road in this part of Mississippi and Walter Goodman was president before the War of the Sixties and the house was official headquarters. The road had repair shops and a roundhouse at the depot, which were destroyed during the war, in Van Dorn's raid, I believe. The shops were rebuilt at Water Valley after the war.

¹ E. H. Crump (1874-1954), who was for a generation the dominant political force in the city of Memphis, was born and reared in Holly Springs, and baptized in Christ Church. His father, William Crump, was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and came to Marshall County with his mother and brothers in the 1850s. The year after the war, Lieutenant E. H. Crump, C.S.A., married Mary C. Nelms, and in 1874, Edward Hull Jr., was born. The father died four years later in the yellow fever epidemic, leaving his wife with three children on a run-down farm. Mollie Nelms Crump—red-headed and tall, tried to carry on, but in 1883 moved into her late uncle's house on West Ghelson Avenue, to-day known as the Crump Place. He went to Memphis in 1892 at the age of seventeen and took a job with a harness factory, which a few years later he bought. Elected mayor in 1909, he was from that day to the end of his life the controlling figure in the city's political affairs. As Elmo Howell has expressed it, "His wars with labor unions, *The Press-Scimitar*, and Gordon Browning enlivened public life, but the focus was always on Mr. Ed, the benevolent, pink-cheeked gentleman with a tousle of white hair—who yet had a whip, or a hundred whips, ready to crack at the right time. He wanted to be liked, and even his enemies admitted that he worked within the law. Power was conferred in honest elections, he gave his constituency what they wanted, and the system worked." Crump adored his mother. He had her red hair, and it was Crump's Sunday morning ritual at the house on Peabody in Memphis—the Lincoln sedan pulled round by the Negro chauffeur and the elegantly dressed man with a cane setting off with his wife for a visit to the family in Mississippi. Always the sunniest of men, he wrote of these occasions that: "The pleasant afternoon with so many pleasant good people is like reading the Sermon on the Mount." *Mississippi Scenes*, 121-23.

² See R. Milton Winter, "The Mississippi Central and the Illinois Central," *The Green Diamond: Magazine of the Illinois Central Railroad Historical Society* 65 (June 2003).

The residence of Walter Goodman stood on the site of E. M. Smith's home, and was destroyed by fire about fifty years ago, but the iron fence still remains.³ Walter Goodman, Jr., moved to Memphis after the war and his descendants still live there.

The old land office holds its strongest though saddest memories through its connection with the yellow fever epidemic of 1878.⁴ W. J. L. Holland, editor of *The Reporter*, had occupied it as a bachelor apartment from about the time of the removal in 1876 of the *Reporter* office from where the Southern Bell Telephone office now is⁵ to the southwest corner of the alley back of Dancy's Drug Store.

Grenada had been stricken with the fever several weeks before it came to Holly Springs and confident in their fancied immunity the people here invited those from infected cities to come to Holly Springs.⁶

W. J. L. Holland and Will Wooten went to Grenada with the message,⁷ and Mr. Holland

³ The Walter Goodman house was a two-story brick structure, at the southeast corner of Chulahoma and Craft. The house apparently had entrances on both streets. The live oaks (the only ones in town) in the yard, the fence on the brick wall date surrounding the grounds, and the stuccoed brick carriage gates at the rear and a brick dependency (both of the latter rebuilt in the 1960s), all date from the original Goodman place. Goodman purchased the lot in 1847, and apparently built the house soon after. The house burned in 1881, and the lot was purchased by Judge Eagleton M. Smith, who built his house called "Linden Lodge" on the site; it is now the home of Mrs. Bert Bonds. Hubert H. McAlexander to R. Milton Winter, October 24, 2002; see information and photos in *Southern Tapestry*, 95.

⁴ The "Yellow Fever House," erected in 1836, which stands at the corner of Memphis Street and Ghelson Avenue, was the first brick structure in Holly Springs. Originally it was one room—the east side, and faced north toward Memphis Street. Later, the west room was added and the entrance changed to face south. The building now houses the Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Authority. See photo, Miller-Smith, 41.

⁵ That is, the northeast corner of the square, College Avenue at Market Street.

⁶ Grenada, Jackson, and Holly Springs were three Mississippi towns hit hardest by the fever in 1878.

⁷ History is fortunate that Mr. Mickle, as well as a number of other Holly Springs citizens, penned accounts of their town's struggle during the yellow fever, among them newspaper editor Will Holland and

gave Downs and another whose name I forgot, both of whom became ill soon after arriving.¹

Kate Bonner, known in literary circles as Sherwood Bonner, who hurried home from her work with novelist Samuel Wadsworth Longfellow to persuade her loved ones to go with her to a place of safety, and when her father and brother fell among the first victims, she sent her child and the rest of the family away, and heroically remained until her loved ones succumbed to the disease. (They died the same day.) Another who wrote of her experiences was Lydia Harris Craig, the Presbyterian minister's wife. An early copy of Mrs. Craig's account cannot now be found, but in 1910 Helen Craft Anderson re-published excerpts from her work, as well as Sherwood Bonner's. Dr. John N. Craig and his daughter Maude also left accounts of the yellow fever in Holly Springs. These brought the suffering of Holly Springs to the nation's attention, particularly the one by Kate Bonner, which appeared in a nationally known magazine. Later, Anne Walter Fearn, who became Mississippi's first woman physician and served a distinguished career in China, published her memories of events. By Bonner's account, Holland and Wooten came back telling a pitiful tale of their melancholy visit to Grenada and scenes they witnessed—of burying the dead in the night's darkness by the glare of torchlight, of hasty graves dug at the very doorstep, or in gardens—of old men and little children dying alone—of one young girl, who, when hope was ended, and she too, alone, realizing the worst, dragged herself from the bed, and opening her bureau drawer, where her delicate underclothing was folded away, managed, when the weakness of approaching death was upon her, to dress herself in fresh linen before she fell lifeless upon the floor. All this melted hearts with pity, and Holland vacated his rooms for refugees from Grenada. "The Yellow Plague of '78: A Record of Horror and Heroism," *Youth's Companion* 52 (April 3, 1879): 117-19.

¹ Bonner maintained that the question of quarantine had been discussed among the citizens of Holly Springs and at meetings of town officials. "From New Orleans the Yellow Fever had extended to one town after another along the line of [rail] roads, and dreadful accounts came to us, especially from Grenada, a town 100 miles below ours. Fever had broken out there unexpectedly and with frightful violence. It soon became a vital question whether or not Holly Springs should open its doors to refugees from that place. There were a few who argued against it, but they were outbourned by ardent and generous spirit. Pointing to our exemption in the past, they had no fear for the future, and if risk there was, they were willing to run it, for sweet humanity's sake. So it was like the sound of one voice when we said to the poor homeless and flying ones, 'Come.'"

COFFIN PUSHED THROUGH WINDOW

Downs, who occupied the back room, died in the night and fearing the effect on the other sick man, the coffin was pushed through a window. The hurried burial so soon after death, and at any time day or night, added no little to the mental distress of the times.²

Col. Goodrich, mayor of the city, had opposed opening the doors to refugees, fearing infection. He roomed a short way north of the old land office and as soon as the Grenada men came he moved to the Lawrence House—now the Traveler's Inn.

He was too late, however, and soon sickened, and died Saturday, August 31—the first citizen to die with the fever.³ His funeral Saturday afternoon was a large one, and attended by all of the prominent men of the city.⁴ The next

² As Helen Craft Anderson recalled, "Sunday, August 25th, was announced with the usual chime of bells, calling the worshipers to the place of prayer. That morning they gave out a brief warning sound, but met no glad response, and only a few devout hearts bowed in the sanctuary.... Groups of men stood here and there on the corners of the streets, where one who felt assured of safety tried to assure others whose confidence was shaken. Each face looked into every other face it met, and every sound of joy and hope was hushed in eager questioning for news. The very air, which seemed so health-giving, was filled with a solemn awe, and dread unnamed fear possessed every heart, lest in the death of the refugee, who had been buried in the darkness of the night before, the seeds of the 'yellow death' had been sown." "A Chapter in the History of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society* 10 (1909): 223-36.

³ Bonner wrote: "On the last day of August the mayor of the town had died after a short illness, attended by the medical men, under 'suspicious circumstances.' What this might mean even the boldest scarcely dared express. The very whisper of Yellow Fever was forbidden. He was buried two hours after death. Everyone seemed eager to explain this quick burial so opposed to all our ideas of Christian sepulcher by any cause but the right one. Again and again it was repeated that fever could not come to our high level, our purer atmosphere."

⁴ Meanwhile, in Grenada, the outbreak of fever was attributed to the opening of a sewer in one of the principal streets in which were found carcasses of hogs, dogs, cats, and other animals. Others said that a certain Mrs. Field, shortly before her illness, had received a mail-order dress from New Orleans and was infected by the garment. *New Orleans Picayune* (August 25, 1878). Said Sherwood Bonner, "We made a

morning, Sunday, the fever blazed out with a hundred cases.¹

Will Wooten fell an early victim, but Holland lived until in October. He was made president of the relief committee.² Many of the outstanding men of the town had favored inviting the refugees, and when they realized their tragic mistake stood by the town and death took heavy toll among them.³

jest of fear, but a tremulous electric excitement agitated every heart, and was communicated from one to another. People collected in little groups on the streets or at the gates of friends, chatting nervously and telling the latest rumor or bits of news. Someone said scoffingly, 'Our mayor no more had Yellow Fever than Mr. C. has it.' Mr. C. [the Rev. J. N. Craig of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church] was the minister who attended the young girl [a Miss Lake, whose family had come] from Grenada in her mortal illness. It was said that he had taken a cold the stormy night when she was buried and had not been quite well since. It was little dreamed that 8 weeks from that time he would just be able to crawl from his bed after a violent attack of the fever, saved by his indomitable will and the devoted care of his wife, whose beautiful spirit was a match for his own."

¹ Kate Bonner, whose father, Dr. Charles Bonner, was a physician, recalled that "Sunday, the first of September was a bright, beautiful day. Some friends visiting us showed us a list of 35 names, 'a list of those stricken in the last 24 hours.' 'Stricken with what?' Kate cried. 'It doesn't seem to be anything serious,' was the answer. 'They all have a chill, more or less violent, followed by a little fever. It is one-tenth sickness and nine-tenths scare.' She continued: 'We were sitting out under the trees, I remember and the birds were singing around us. The sun shone, the sky was blue, the breeze was pleasantly cool, and the flowers had never blossomed in such a splendid wealth of color. The idea of pestilence here seemed almost something to smile at.'" Bonner recorded that of the first hundred cases, only ten survived.

² Again and again new members had to be recruited for this committee, the old ones falling to illness as they served at their posts. Near the end, Holland wrote to a friend that: "Of the relief committee, I alone am left of the first and second body. It has been recruited seven times, and still there are only three who have not had the fever and two of those are from New Orleans and acclimated."

³ *The New Orleans Picayune* reported fifty stricken at Holly Springs with two deaths, and what was described as "a grand hurrying out of town by railroad and private conveyance." Concealment and denial were at an end. Panic seized the city, and on September 4, yellow fever was declared epidemic in Holly Springs. Trains were not allowed to stop for fear of infecting passengers from the South, and so people trekked to and from a crossing three miles south of town.

Following the close of the epidemic in this state, and it was in all sections of the state, the Mississippi Press Association decided to erect a monument to the five members who died at their posts.

Holland was president and host when the association met in Holly Springs in 1877, and Kinloch Falconer, who was Secretary of State, but also a member, lived here; and it was decided to erect it here and the granite shaft was unveiled in 1879, the Press Association attending the ceremony in a body, with of course a large attendance of citizens.

For some time after the epidemic the house was used as an office and bachelor's home, but for many years it has been occupied by families. The Rather estate is the present owners.

As Sherwood Bonner captured the scene, "There was hurried clasping of hands that never hoped to touch each other again on this side of the River; wild farewells were spoken; tender embraces and many a fervent 'God bless you' given between friends beloved.... Wives were hurried from the pale, cold forms of their husbands—hurried away in the despairing effort to save the dear little children. What a freight of mingled human emotions did that morning's train carry!... The one effort, the one prayer, seemed to be that those untouched might escape while there was yet time."

2.

YELLOW FEVER DAYS NOW 50 YEARS GONE.**Heroism of Half a Century Ago in Holly Springs Recalled by Recurrence of Anniversary for the Fiftieth Time.**

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (September 20, 1928). Fifty years ago Holly Springs was in the grip of the yellow fever and heroism of the highest order kept step with the Yellow Knight in his sweep through two heart-breaking months.¹

The people of Holly Springs, believing that the altitude of the city rendered them immune,² invited fever refugees to this city. Several devel-

oped the fever and one died without causing alarm.³

But on Saturday, August 31, the first death among citizens occurred, that of Col. A. W. Goodrich, a much-respected citizen. The funeral that afternoon was largely attended. The hasty funeral was the only gesture of fear. Sunday the fever played out in a hundred cases and by Monday noon the town looked deserted—most of the stores closed and few people on the street.⁴

¹ In his article, "Mississippi and the Yellow Fever Epidemics of 1878-1879," Marshall Scott Legan wrote that "for more than two hundred years, yellow fever was one of the most serious plagues in the new world. Northern areas of the United States were occasionally subject to it, but the tropical and sub-tropical southern states were the most severely affected. Along with malaria, yellow fever served as one of the greatest obstacles to the establishment of the plantation system across the Appalachian Mountains. Malaria, endemic in the swamp lands of the South produced a greater total number of fatalities than the epidemic diseases, but yellow fever inspired more terror among southern people." *Journal of Mississippi History* 33 (August, 1971): 199.

² Early publicists of Holly Springs never tired of touting the town's healthful climate and ideal location on high ground far above the swampy miasmas of the state's low-lying regions, as when on October 9, 1835, *The Jackson Mississippian* carried a notice advertising "The Town of Holly Springs: FOR SALE:"—extolling the site's healthful situation in the midst of rich cotton land—a refuge during the "sickly season," or again when *The Nashville Republican* of May 14, 1836 noted that Holly Springs was located "on a dry and elevated spot, surrounded by springs of the purest water, and pointed out by all who have seen it as the certain abode of health." As late as the 1930s catalogs for the Mississippi Synodical College claimed the town's healthful elevation as a reason that parents should consider sending their daughters to school in Holly Springs. The fact that epidemics had often raged in the Mississippi river town of Memphis fifty miles away but had never visited Holly Springs was thought to prove the argument conclusively.

³ The cause of yellow fever was unknown, and Southerners had ignored some of the more recent advances in the field of public health, so that in the hope of preventing the disease, some skinned calves and hung the meat high in the air to attract any passing airborne infection, while others fired cannons to stir the miasmatic atmosphere, also drinking lime-water, eating onions, gin and sulfur, swallowing quinine and cathartic pills, and wore liver pads. Ironically, Southerners complained about the bothersome mosquito, not distinguishing between the *anophles* which carried malaria and the *aedes aegypti* species that bore yellow fever—all the while unaware of the role each played as a vector in the spread of disease. But a son of Holly Springs advanced the quest for an answer. Dr. Jerome Cochran, who was at his father's farm northwest of Holly Springs during the fever went on to become Alabama's chief public health officer. He was instrumental in moving medical opinion from the belief that the fever was caused by filth toward a recognition of the true cause, namely an infectious germ. See *Yellow Fever and Public Health in the New South*, 64, 73, 76.

⁴ As she nursed her husband, Lydia Craig was alert to the fear around her. She told how "Deep gloom gathered with the night, and seemed to be shutting us in a vast prison-house of death.... The face of the next morning looked drearily down upon me as I sat by the open window, where through the long hours of a sleepless night, I had gazed out in to the heavens whose very stars seemed to have gone out. The morning's rays fell upon a pestilence-stricken town.... The hurry and confusion of panic had ceased. There were no feet hurrying to and fro—only now and then someone could be seen, in anxious haste, in search of the help of a physician, his speed increased by the sound of his own footsteps as it rang a hollow echo through

The cream of manhood of the city stayed by their stricken community and adopted prompt measures for relief. Relief headquarters was opened in the office next to where Dr. Henry's office is now. Hospitals were opened in the courtroom of the courthouse and on the second floor of the Masonic building, then used as a theatre.¹

Through the courtesy of Dan Oliver the following transcript from court records giving the list of the dead is published.

SOME OF THE SAD NEWS OF FIFTY YEARS AGO HERE

List of Deaths, Holly Springs Yellow Fever Epidemic, 1878:

Saturday, Aug. 17, 1878—Four members of the Lake Family, of Grenada, reached this city in a.m.

Aug. 19—E. L. Downs and—[Polly] Martin from Grenada, arrived.

Aug. 20—E. L. Downs and—[Polly] Martin from Grenada, taken with fever.

Death List

Aug. 25—E. L. Downs and Miss Lake, from Grenada.

Aug. 31—A. W. Goodrich.

Sept. 1—A. T. Wilshire, from Grenada.

Sept. 2—Wm. Macklin from Memphis.

Sept. 3—Isaac Tandler and James Chism.

Sept. 4—A. F. Brown's child, H. A. McCrosky, Frank Ganter and Robert McCain.²

the empty town. Every thoroughfare was silent; every store and shop and office and place of business was closed except one drugstore." Cited in Anderson, "A Chapter in the History of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society* 10 (1909): 223-36.

¹ Wrote a Chicago doctor who had rushed to the city to volunteer his services: "I served through the Peninsula campaign with McClellan, and there became accustomed to scenes of excitement and death, but what I witnessed yesterday and today in this town, in the way of black vomit, fever, and delirium, by far surpasses all former experience." *Chicago Tribune* (September 11, 1878).

² W. J. L. Holland prepared this dispatch on Wednesday, September 4: "Streets leading to the depot were jammed with every conceivable type of vehicle loaded with baggage and human beings. Grim-faced men placed their tearful families aboard the last train that would stop, with prayers in their hearts that the

Sept. 5—James Fort, Mrs. James Nuttall, B. P. Oliver, Bateman's child, Mrs. Stephen Knapp, Wm. Hogan and Mrs. E. A. Thomas.³

Sept. 6—Gus Smith, Herman Snider's child, B. D. Nabors, A. F. Moore, Mrs. Leak, W. R. Todd, John Chenowith, Sam Abernathy, and Sam Crockett.⁴

Sept. 7—B. S. Crump, Dr. Charles Bonner,⁵ James Walker, Chas. Glassy, James Nuttall, Sam Bonner and R. L. Watson.⁶

Sept. 8—Miss Julia Waite, Bateman's child and Mrs.

Sept. 9—R. G. Campbell, Thomas A. Falconer, George Wing, Virginia Lynch and U. H. Ross.

yellow peril had not yet put the touch of death upon them. *Holly Springs Reporter*.

³ This cry of distress went from Holly Springs by telegraph on September 5: "The stores are all closed and all the people gone away who can... Physicians are broken down. Many cases will die today. Gloom, despair, and death rule the hour, and the situation is simply appalling. The outside world are appealed to for help." Holland wrote that, "A pall of gloom has settled upon the silent town. The hurry and confusion of panic is gone... Some of the doctors are sick and those still left can't attend all of the stricken. There are no nurses, no supplies. Holly Springs is cut off from a terror-stricken world without and awaits in mute dismay the horrors within. A low-hanging cloud of sickening yellow smoke issuing from piles of burning bedding shuts the stricken town in upon itself. The people believe the penetrating fumes are poisonous." Holland, press dispatch for September 5, 1878.

⁴ "Father Anacletus Oberti and twelve Sisters from Bethlehem Academy are in charge of the hospital in the Court House. Long lines of white and black sufferers lie side by side." Holland, press dispatch for September 6, 1878.

⁵ By Kate Bonner's recollection, "Not a physician in town had ever seen a case of yellow fever before, and worked in blind ignorance; every one of them stayed and worked faithfully until taken himself. Within a few days doctors and nurses came from New Orleans, and later from Texas and other places. Among their number were Dr. Walter Bailey and Dr. A. R. Gourrier, of New Orleans; Dr. R. M. Swearinger, of Texas, and Dr. J. W. Ross, of the U. S. Navy; Drs. Manning and Lewis, of Texas, who died during the first weeks."

⁶ "This is the most sorrowful Sunday our little town has ever known! Not a church bell; not a stroke from the old town clock; not a lisp from the Sunday school classes; not a prayer from the ministers of God. Three of our faithful preachers have fallen in the midst of the field. May they be spared. The deaths up to this date have been 38." Holland, press dispatch for September 7, 1878.

Sept. 10—Wm. Crump, Mrs. J. R. Dougherty, Miss Corilla Record, Hal Johnson, Clem Read, Victory Smith, W. J. Marrett, Mrs. S. H. Pryor, Willie Wooten, Chas. Chenowith, E. T. Brinkley's child, Alec Seyle, J. C. Potter, R. W. Fort, and A. A. Armstrong.

Sept. 11—Clarissa Davis, Father Oberti, Charles Schneider, Winfield S. Featherston, Jr., Mrs. Richard Daniel and Richard Daniel.

Sept. 12—Minerva Lynch, Miss Lucilla Read, Henry Epps, and Scott Epps.

Sept. 13—Mrs. J. W. Brannon, Lizzie Lane (col.), E. T. Brinkley's child, E. W. Upshaw, Mrs. John Potter, Mrs. R. Hastings, Sam Kimball and Diana Ingram (col.).

Sept. 14—Maria Anderson (col.).¹

Sept. 15—George Kimball, Ben Casey, Pat McGuire, George Johnson (col.), and E. Jones (col.).

Sept. 16—Laura Demmey, Lewis Thomson, Mr. Dunn, James M. Kean, Lotta Ingraham, (col.), O. J. Quiggins' child and Mrs. Geo. Kimball.

Sept. 17—Mrs. E. D. Miller,² Caroline Washington (col.), Ben Boyd (col.), Mrs. R. L. Watson, Peter Webber, Miss Mary Stewart³ and Mrs. W. S. Featherston.

¹ "Friend no longer visits friend with a word of hope. Yesterday one face was missing, today another. Silence tells the story." W. J. L. Holland, press dispatch for September 14, 1878.

² Wife of the Baptist minister. It is said that the Baptist Church was reduced to only a few men and about eight or ten women. Mrs. Miller, the pastor's wife, and H. A. McCrosky, the church's only deacon, were among its dead. A group of "seven praying women" worked to rebuild the congregation, keeping the doors open and maintaining a prayer meeting. Lois Swaney, *History of the First Baptist Church* (privately published, 1974).

³ Misses Annie and Mary Stewart were milliners, born in Ireland of Scottish descent. Cora Harris Watson recorded on January 26, 1865: "I bought a beautiful balmoral from Miss Stewart for \$15, and have made it." *Civil War Women*, 83. Both died in the yellow fever of 1878. By Kate Bonner's account, "Two sisters—English or Scotch women—had lived in Holly Springs for 20 or 25 years. They had kept a little shop, and by careful attention and pinching economy, had saved enough to build a house. It was finished in August [1878]. It was a pretty house, a model of neatness and order and it was charming to see the sisters' pride in the 'home of their own' to which they had been looking forward all their lives; and to hear their plans for the comfort and happiness of their declining years. All their money had been spent in furnishing their house, and they could not bear to leave the home they had worked so hard to get. Whatever the reason,

Sept. 18—Mrs. John Foreman, J. W. Webber, J. H. Stone, Mrs. Martin Knable and Jane McGary.

Sept. 19—Stephen Knapp, Mrs. Lewis Thomson, child of Rebecca Lea (col.), Wm. Collins (col.), and Col. H. W. Walter.

Sept. 20—E. T. Brinkley, Capt. Jno. Fennell, Dr. Manning, Miss Lizzie Butler and Howard Falconer.

Sept. 21—Hugh Winborn and Julia Stojowski.

Sept. 22—Sister Stanislas, Avant Walter, John Larouche, Eugene Leidy, Jr. Chas. Harris, (col.) Jim Fowler, (col.) Mollie Cox's child (col.), Henry Hargis (col.), Mary Gholson (col.) and Henry Carter (col.).

Sept. 23—Miss Liza Allen, Albert Rollins (col.), Henry Morton (col.), Mrs. Stone, Maj. Kinloch Falconer, Miss Darthula Allen, Miss Nancy Allen and Dr. F. M. Fennell.

Sept. 24—Thomas Henderson's child, Margaret Glassey, Mrs. Gaitley's son, Willie Castello, Dr. J. W. Fennell and Amelia Maughan.

Sept. 25—Dan Phillips (col.), Jacob Berry (col.), John Power, Miss Annie Stewart and Mrs. Hutchinson.

Sept. 26—Mrs. Harrington, Wm. Yancy's child, Jim Wells,⁴ Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Yancy, James

they did not go away. Soon the younger sister sickened and died. When they came for the body, the other one, half-crazed, clung to it, and begged them not to take it away. 'Let her stay, let her stay!' she begged. 'I will lock her up in a room, and no one will know she is here. It cannot be long before I am dead, too; do not separate us; only let her stay until I can be buried with her.' Of course, the piteous prayer could not be heeded, and she was left desolate. The sisters were Scotch Presbyterians and had always been very bitter against Roman Catholics. But in this sore strait the Catholic sisters came to her aid, and took her with them to their convent-house, and there they tended her gently, until as she had foreseen, her summons came, and she followed the sister she had loved so well."

⁴ James Wells, an African-American carpenter employed by Spires Boling, the Holly Springs master builder, who tended many sick persons and built their coffins, also died of the yellow fever. His wife Lizzie succumbed a day later. It was almost a week later that their daughter Ida Wells, staying that summer with her grandmother, received the news that her parents were dead and that the Howard Association, a relief organization, had placed a woman at the Wells home to care for her brothers and sisters. Taking a freight train draped in black in honor of two conductors felled by the fever, she reached the devastated town. Upon learning of her return, Dr. James Gray, who had attended the Wellses to the end, sent the nurse to stay with their children, and keeping money for them en-

R. L. Hunt, Frank Walter, Mrs. Jeff McGowan, Jimmie Walter, Allen Goulden, Sister Stella, Hempton's son, and J. M. Lumpkin.¹

Sept. 27—Mr. Johnston, Glenn Fant, John Banks, John Hastings, Mr. Gholson at Depot, Mrs. Kate O'Gray, Jim Wells' wife, Mrs. Archie Straws and Cowan Roxy.

Sept. 28—Thos. Wade, Mrs. McGherry, Alex Hohenwart, Austin Saunders, Mrs. Crown McGuire, Miss Lucy Fort, Sister Margaretia, Martin Thomas, Molly Virginia, Eli Walker, Guy Allen, colored child and Georgie Featherston.

Sept. 29—C. H. Walker, Dr. W. O. McKinney, Mrs. McDermott, Unknown white lady, Unknown Person, Dan Oliver, Wm. Washington (col.), L. P. Parish, Jno. Gorman, Jno. Pearson, Eli Chew (col.), and Lucinda Sims (col.).

Sept. 30—Strauss' infant, Herr's infant, Rufus Howard (col.), Doctor Raymond (col.), Henry Elliott, (col.), Flora Anderson (col.), Smith Baker, Randall Moore (col.), and Miss Christina Carlson.²

Oct. 1—Mrs. C. J. Herr, Mrs. Parish, A. C. Henderson, Mike Tiernan, Haywood McKissack, Henry Cowen and Joseph Herr.

Oct. 2—Sister Corinthia, Peter Stineman, Maughn's child, H. J. McKeugh, Amanda Sutton

trusted to him by James Wells, came to tell Ida of her father's kindness and heroism. Ida Wells grew up to become a crusader for social reform. The Ida B. Wells Family Art Museum, housed in the former Spires Boling home on North Randolph Street at the foot of Salem Avenue, displays paintings by Ida B. Wells-Barnett and honors the memory of her parents. *Southern Tapestry*, 72, 169.

¹ "The dead cannot be buried fast enough and rows of coffins line the Court House lawn in ghastly waiting for the ghastlier bodies. The ministers are ill of fever. There are not enough hearses. The bodies go to the cemetery in wagons and are buried by members of the family, if they still survive. All day, all night the dead are buried. The only sound, other than those in the cemetery, to shatter the stillness of the night, is the dismal howling of dogs, making a gruesome requiem for the dead." W. J. L. Holland, press dispatch for September 26, 1878.

² Miss Christina Carlson, who had immigrated from Sweden and lived with the family of Presbyterian minister and Mrs. John N. Craig. By Dr. Craig's account, "Our excellent Swede girl, who had lived with us for five or six years, said she had become a Christian under my instruction and the influence of our home, and that she would not leave me sick. She paid for her fidelity with her life—died on the 12th day of her illness, a month after I was taken [ill]. Her body rests in the lot of George J. and Nannie Dunlap Finley at Hill Crest Cemetery. John N. Craig, *The Southern Presbyterian* (December 12, 1878).

(col.), Martin Knable, Jane Hill (col.), Webber's child, Augustus Bowman, Martha Walker, Mrs. Julia Roberts and Col. A. J. Hess of Philadelphia.

Oct. 3—Selden Fant, Daniel Gray (col.), Thomas Gilbert (col.), Mrs. B. A. Myers, Jim Wells' child (col.), and Hal Johnson's child (col.).

Oct. 4—Mr. Daily, E. H. Crump, Miss Lizzie Molloy and James V. Henry.³

Oct. 5—Sister Victoria, Millie Bradford's child (col.), Mr. Miller, Lucius Boxley (col.), Henry Edmonson (col.), John Hawkins (col.), and Mr. Diller.

Oct. 6—Miss Allen and Geo. Strather (col.).

Oct. 7—Jack Malci, and Dow Craft's wife (col.).

Oct. 8—Allen Brodgen (col.).

Oct. 9—James G. Adams, Jas. McHugh and Geo. Parks.

Oct. 10—Child of Chas. Harris, Paton Edmonson (col.), and Mrs. _____.

Oct. 11—Jeff McGowan (col.), and Sister Laurentia.

Oct. 12—Ida McGowan (col.), Mrs. James Miller and G. Thomas.

Oct. 13—Jacob Krouse and Alsey Lea (col.).

Oct. 14—Mrs. Lane, Milly Shotwell (col.), Willie Price (col.), and Edward Brim.

Oct. 15—Wife of Paton Edmonson (col.), and son of Shokesburg.

Oct. 16—John Ellis (col.) and Joshua Watson.

Oct. 17—Child of Paton Edmonson (col.) and Charity Gaines (col.).

Oct. 18—Joseph Lackey and Dennis Lane.

Oct. 19—James Calvin, Burton Connington and Willis Edwards.⁴

Oct. 20—Rachel Cochran (col.), Henry Vandive, and Polly Martin.

Oct. 21—Robert King, Squire Yowell, Lula Lesseur and Mr. Mooney.

³ "It seems that famine will surely wipe out the plague-ridden town. Food is almost gone, medical supplies are low. Will the world let Holly Springs die of starvation while stricken with Yellow Fever?" W. J. L. Holland, press dispatch for October 4, 1878.

⁴ On October 19, Will Holland sent the following message: "To-day there are six new cases and one death. Your correspondent happens to be one of the new cases, after having struggled with 'Yellow Jack' from the beginning of the epidemic. He desires, through you, in the name of this people, to express our lasting gratitude to our friends in every part of the Union who have so generously and so nobly contributed to us in so many ways."

Oct. 22—Peter Gealer's son, Alf Rodgers (col.) and Th. Dressler.
 Oct. 23—Harriett Mosley (col.).
 Oct. 24—Dr. Compton, Josephine Martin (col.), John Kimbrough and John Tiernan.
 Oct. 25—W. J. L. Holland, Mrs. Dr. McKinney, Mrs. Peter Gheeler and Dennis Haitwood (col.).¹
 Oct. 26—Mrs. Gunthries and Mrs. Byers.
 Oct. 28—Mrs. Sam Coffin.
 Oct. 29—Miss Cora McWilliams.
 Oct. 30—Ted Nelms.²
 Nov. 2—Epidemic pronounced at an end by the Board of Health.³

A. M. LYLES, President.

Total number of those who died on this list, 291.⁴

The Chancery Clerk's Office was closed on the morning of Sept. 3rd on account of epidemic and re-opened in the room of Deputy Clerk, November 4th, 1878. Courthouse, being then unfit for use, it being used as a hospital.

¹ Holland died on October 25. Sherwood Bonner wrote that "He was a young man, generous, popular, gentle; with everything to make life worth living; hosts of friends; a mother who idolized him, and the love of a beautiful young girl, whom he expected soon to make his wife. He took a place that no one else could fill. In that time of wild confusion and demoralization, his services were invaluable. It is no exaggeration to say that he saved the town from utter ruin."

² On November 1, a final message went out: "Four new cases, no deaths." Still, there was good news as the newspaper reported, "Heavy frost last night, and the prospect of another to-night. The hospital was closed to-day. Many business houses are open." When the plague abated, the courthouse bell was rung again, and this time, only a few hundred assembled.

³ Using all available sources Holly Springs historian Bobby Mitchell has recently compiled the most complete list yet assembled of those who died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878. It is published as Appendix B, in the revised edition of his *Cemeteries of Marshall County Mississippi*. In particular, his work identifies many black citizens whose names had heretofore gone unrecorded in most accountings of the epidemic.

⁴ By best accounts there were 1,440 cases of fever and 304 deaths in Holly Springs. The city had a population then of about 4,000. See also the list of dead in Hamilton, 157-59. Grenada, a town of 2,200 had 350 deaths, with 1,050 stricken. *Report of the Mississippi State Board of Health, 1878-1879*, 45.

November 11th. Courthouse re-occupied by County Officers.⁵

B. W. WALTHALL, Clerk,
 J. B. WALTHALL, D. C.

⁵ Another sobering relic of these days is the record book of the town's board of aldermen. Regular meetings were held through August 24. After that the page is blank—no further meetings were held until November 12. This minute, in a different hand, written poorly and containing ink smears, describes steps toward the city government's reorganization, for the mayor and almost all the city officials were dead. As Thomas C. Stewart has remarked, "Much has been written about this, our darkest hour, but nothing says so much as this blank page." *Holly Springs South Reporter* (April 19, 1992). At the first meeting of the board after the epidemic, it was decided that, inasmuch as no one yet knew how yellow fever was transmitted, no graves in the cemetery could be opened to return bodies of refugees to their homes until January 1, 1880. It was further ruled that new graves should be spaced sufficiently far from the plots of fever victims to prevent all danger of infection from those who had died of the disease.

3.

LEARNED THAT FROST DOESN'T KILL FEVER.

Beauty of 1931 Autumn Similar to That of Fifty-three Years Ago
When Holly Springs Suffered So Severely from Plague.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (November 26, 1931).¹ The supernal beauty of the past fall, so long drawn out, recalls that of 1878, when the people prayed for early frost, that was supposed to kill out the yellow fever,² which had afflicted the town for two months.³

We now know that frost has no effect other than to thin out the mosquitoes that transmit it. Finally the first frost came in October and another early in November, and it was considered safe for me to return and open the store. I was employed at Crump, Hull & Finley's dry goods store.

I returned November 5, two months to a day from when I left.⁴ The town was crowded with strangers; doctors, nurses and helpers who had come during the epidemic; and people looking for jobs. People seemed to think that jobs would be plentiful after so many deaths, and flocked here from the northern tier of southern states and from across the Ohio River—all fever-afflicted towns had this experience.⁵

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² Kate Bonner called it "the white blessing of the frost" and sighed that "The eyes that had yearned for it looked out upon its glittering coolness with dull despair, for it came too late to save. It sparkled on three hundred and fifty new-made graves."

³ Other accounts of the yellow fever epidemic are found in Hamilton, 48-51; *Prodigal Daughter*, 116-118, 140-42, 145; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 247-62; and *Southern Tapestry*, 70-72; and *A Vanishing America*, 72-73.

⁴ Mickle, who was eighteen, was no doubt among those who were urged by parents and friends to leave for safety's sake.

⁵ William Baskerville Hamilton wrote that after the yellow fever Holly Springs "was exhausted and crippled. Dr. Dancy 'conservatively' estimates the cost of the epidemic to Holly Springs at \$439,000. Mr. George Myers says that every merchant in the town was ruined by the fever. While probably too inclusive,

I was decidedly in the dumps, especially that first day, meeting so few people that I knew and missing so many that I would never see again.

WEATHER HAD TURNED WARM

To make matters worse the weather had turned warm and several new cases were reported, one of whom, Bob McDermott's sister, died. I was more uneasy than on the day I left.

Walking along with my head down I ran plump into Ben Baer whom I had heard had died in Cincinnati as did Joe Lebolt. I met Aleck McCrosky at the south gate of the courthouse and his greeting was characteristic of him: "John, I am glad to see that you are still above the surface."

I went out (where Sam Booker lives) on Chulahoma Street⁶—and called the cook, Aggie Yancy. She was not there, but my pointer dog, Plato, came running out. We literally hugged each other. He was a large handsome fellow, white with large liver spots.⁷

this statement approaches the truth. J. H. Athey was the only merchant not bankrupt. He was a druggist and supplied the medicine, and his store is the only one said to have remained open throughout the epidemic. Brodie Crump, for example, was rated at \$150,000 and had outstanding credits besides, with planters and others, of the same sum again. Yellow Fever left the firm absolutely bankrupt." Hamilton, 51; *It Happened Here*, 86.

⁶ Southeast corner of Chulahoma Avenue and Minor Street.

⁷ Nineteenth century residents of Holly Springs had pets. Local diarist James J. Selby recorded that in the autumn of 1841, "Our poor little old dog Trip departed this life. He was supposed to be about 30 years old. Nine days later Selby noted that Joseph's pretty little dog Tip died in the Saloon on the 3rd day after taken sick." Several years later, Selby wrote that "Our poor old dog Watch died after being Shot the night before." Then in the spring of 1851, his sole entry for

I had reluctantly left him behind, but found him all right. The cook told me Plato would go to the Cooper Hotel, headquarters of the nursing staff, and the doctors and nurses fed him until he was as fat as a butterball.

That was a lonesome gloomy night, and I allowed Plato to stay in the room for company. I don't believe there was another white face on that street. My reflections were gloomy for in the three days before I left I had seen Fox Moore removed from William Lea's home, just across the street, and taken out to the country, to die. I had seen Randle Moore and another colored man bring Charlie Chenowith home (on the site of C. C. Stephenson's house), where his brother John (Miss Lilly Chenowith's father) was already down, they both died a few days later.

Mrs. Stephen Knapp, who lived in John Wade's house,¹ died the morning I left, and her husband a few days later. Col. H. W. Walter and his three sons, Frank, Avant, and Jim, my old schoolmates at Chalmers Institute, had laid down their lives for their friends.

REFUGEES BEGAN TO RETURN

The town soon began filling up, though, with returning refugees, and the streets were pathetically black—due to the universal custom then of the women wearing mourning. Followed the memorial exercises at the different churches, and other organizations, for their dead, and the two newspapers, *The Reporter* and *The South*, were heavily loaded with resolutions.²

the month read, "Our dog Brutus died—we thought he was poisoned." "Sundries Events" (September 11, 20, 1841; May 30, 1844; March 14, 1851).

¹ Both Mr. and Mrs. Knapp succumbed to fever. He operated a tailor shop on the square. Their house, located at 275 West Chulahoma Avenue, now known as "Imokalea," is presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Phillips. A prime example of "raised basement" architecture, it was built in 1857. The home at one time belonged to the John S. Doxey (1858-1948), who was sheriff of Marshall County. His son, Wall Doxey (1892-1962), became a Congressman and U. S. Senator from Mississippi. Wall Doxey State Park is named in his honor. See photo, Miller-Smith, 40.

² The Presbyterian Church's memorial, edged in black and listing the names of twenty-three communicants and thirteen young people and children, was published in the local papers by the Session's directive. It stated that "We do not wish to be understood as mourning only for those whom we have named. We mourn truly and sadly with our brethren of other de-

Then, when severe cold weather had set in, the mournful journey of the dead who had died in other places, back home.

The cemetery looked like a plowed field, the graves having wooden head boards carrying the name of the dead, some marked "Unknown." In the hurried burials mistakes were made as to lots, and these bodies had to be re-interred.³

After all great catastrophes, human nature attempts an effort at forgetfulness, often with an increase of dissipation, and the winter of '78-79 was an exceedingly lively one.⁴

nominations, over those who have gone from their firesides, their altars, and their assemblies below; and with our brethren who survive, we share an equal joy, in the hope of being reunited with those departed ones in the hosts of the redeemed above."

³ As Kate Bonner wrote, "It is not alone to see loved ones die; it is to fear their dying kiss. It is not to watch the dear dead face until the coffin-lid is closed above it, but to turn shuddering from the face where you can see waves of change follow each other, until it has become a yellow transfigured mask. It is not to see the folded hands clasping flowers, the dear form enshrouded in fresh grave-clothes, nor to see them laid away, with prayers uttered above them, and friends standing by, with uncovered heads, but it is to know—with what intensity of horror!—that these forms are changed to a poison so deadly that death can be tasted in the air around them, and love itself shrinks from rendering its last sad office. It is to know that they are buried, wrapped hastily in sheets, sometimes unconfined, hurried to deep graves without friends, or mourners, or care, by hirelings, who slight and dread their task."

⁴ There was great fear of another epidemic the next summer, and cases were reported in Marshall County and in nearby Memphis during the 1879 season. But *The Jackson (Miss.) Comet* forecast that "the former pestholes of fever, Vicksburg, Jackson, Holly Springs, Grenada, Canton, and Meridian, would be spared because of excellent sanitation." Meanwhile, nearby Memphis lay prostrate and had surrendered its city charter due to the terrible epidemic of the year before. But rumors of fever—and a few cases—and repeatedly, the Holly Springs schools had to delay the commencement of their fall courses due to fears of the yellow plague. (In one year, North Mississippi Presbyterian College in Holly Springs postponed its opening for five weeks due to cases of yellow fever in the southern part of neighboring Lafayette County.) The last cases of fever reported in Mississippi were in 1905 at Lumberton, in the southern part of the state. See Marshall Scott Legan, "The Disappearance of Bronze John in Mississippi," *Journal of Mississippi History* 38 (February 1976): 33-46.

4.

NOBLE SACRIFICES OF FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Anniversary of Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878 in Holly Springs
Recalls Heroic Services Rendered by Sisters of Bethlehem Academy.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (October 18, 1928). It is fitting to recall in this the fiftieth anniversary year of the yellow fever epidemic in Holly Springs the noble sacrifice made by the sisters of Bethlehem Academy in those dreadful months of September and October 1878.

Bethlehem Academy a Roman Catholic school for girls, was established in Holly Springs in the [late sixties] by the mother convent at Nazareth, Ky., and there were about a dozen nuns in charge when the yellow fever came.

It should be remembered that these were not nursing but teaching sisters, and not bound by their vows to remain. They could have gone without prejudice.

Robert A McDermott of this city attended the boys' school across the street from the Academy, taught by Sister Stanislaus.

He had gone with other boys of that faith for benediction at the chapel on Sunday afternoon, September 1, the day when the fever burst in its fury among the citizens of the town, nearly a hundred cases being recorded.

As he was leaving Sister Stanislaus called him and told him that there would be no school Monday as the fever had been declared epidemic, and that the sisters would remain. As they parted she added: "Be a good boy and always live right. We may never meet again."

The courtroom and jury rooms at the courthouse were converted into a hospital by the health authorities, and later the Masonic Hall, as the theatre on the second floor of the Masonic Building was then known.

Here Father Oberti, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, and the sisters administered spiritual and

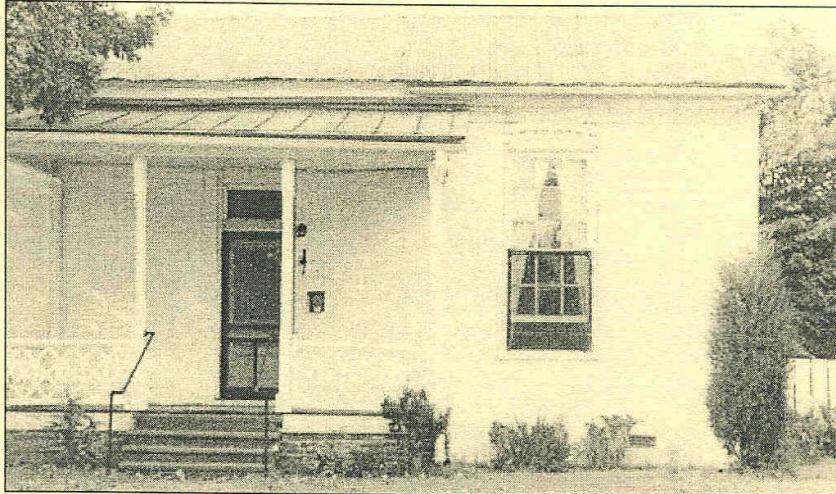
physical help to the sick and dying. The priest was first to go, dying September 11.

Six sisters gave their lives, the first—Sister Stanislas—on September 22. The others were Sisters Stella, Margaretia, Corinthia, Victoria and Laurentia, the last dying on October 11.

In the year following the fever the grateful citizenship of Holly Springs, without regard to race or religion, contributed funds and a monument in bronze was placed in the lot in Hill Crest Cemetery where the priest and the sisters rest.

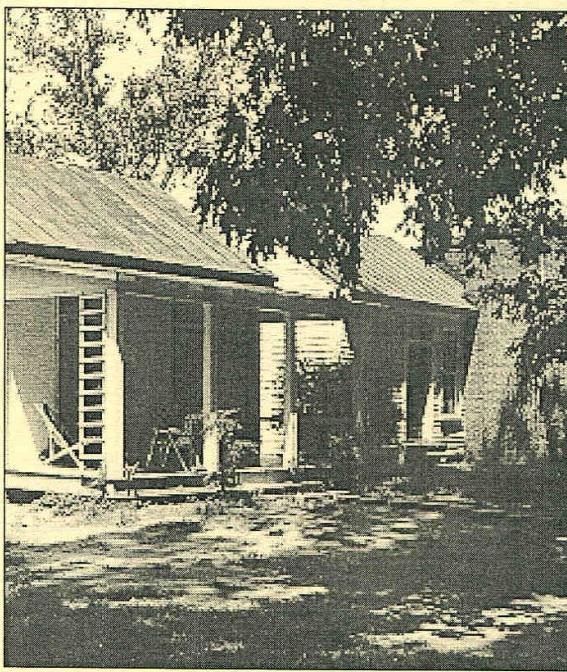
Impressive ceremony marked the unveiling of the monument. In the procession, headed by the old Holly Springs Band and Autry Rifles—themselves heavy sufferers from the fever—marched the schools of the city and a great outpouring of citizens, among whom were Jews¹

¹Holly Springs once was home to a substantial Jewish community, the earliest members of which arrived before the Civil War and became merchants on the town square. Some came from Russia, others Germany. Isaac C. Levy, for example, was a Sephardic Jew from Alsace-Lorraine. Holly Springs Jews joined in the commercial and social activity of the town and their lives mirrored the culture of the Old South. Some fought in the Civil War. Life was difficult for Jews during the war, for not only were their stores commandeered and destroyed by the armies, but it was while operating in the area that General Grant issued a controversial order banning Jews from trading with the U. S. Army. See Stephen D. Lutz, "Grant's Ignoble Act, *America's Civil War* (March 2000): 50-56. Though the town never had a synagogue or temple, Hebrew worshipers would go to Memphis to celebrate the high holy days, and some attended the Presbyterian Church. Some Jewish names in the town's history are Baer, Blumenthal, Frank, Grosskins, Lebolt, Louis, Myers, Oppenheimer, Rhine, Rosenfield, Sessel, and Shumacker. Most were involved in mercantile enterprises, and Mary Virginia Grigsby Foley, daughter of Presbyterian minister, the Rev. S. L. Grigsby, who served the Presbyterian Church (1897-1904), recalled that most



W. J. L. Holland's bachelor quarters at the corner of Gholson and Memphis Streets, now known as the "Yellow Fever House." Mr. Mickle told how a refugee from Grenada, named Downs, "who occupied the back room, died in the night and fearing the effect on the other sick man, the coffin was pushed through a window. The hurried burial so soon after death, and at any time day or night, added no little to the mental distress of the times."

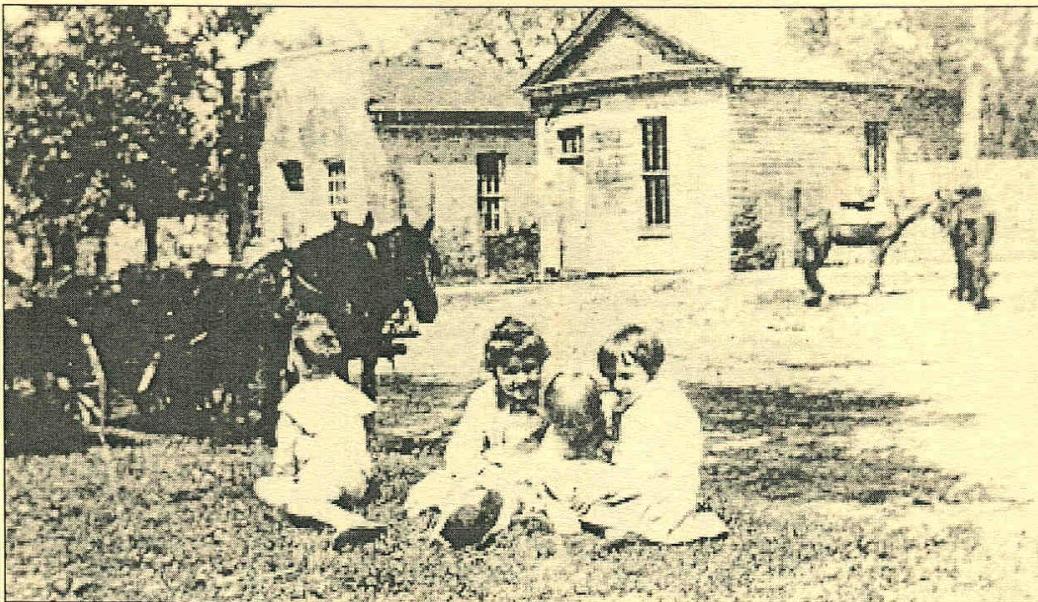
The building now houses the Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Bureau. Chesley Smith collection.



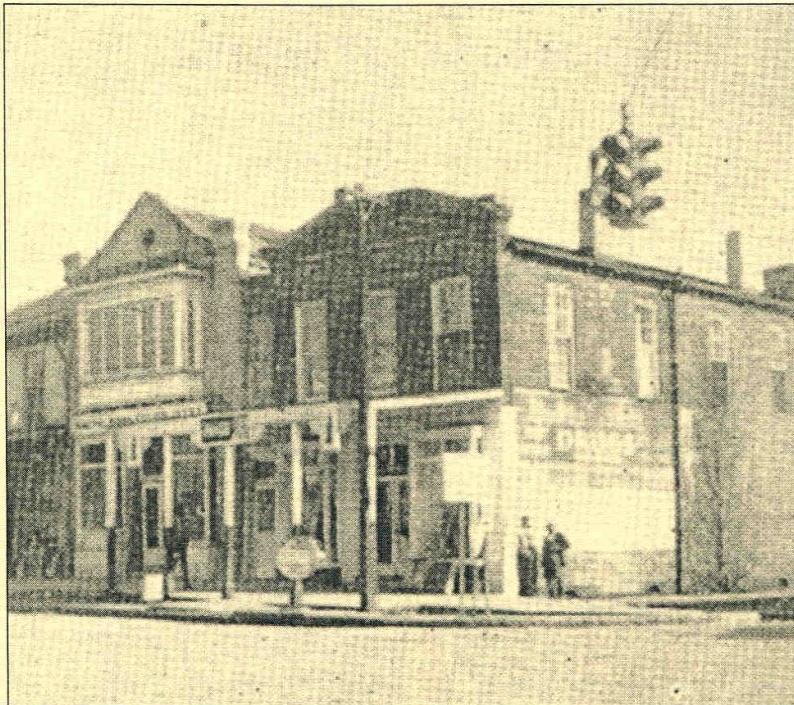
"Bachelor Quarters" on South Market Street. Mr. Mickle wrote that while there were several of these modest clapboard two-room dwellings on South Memphis Street, they were more numerous on South Center Street, and the only one left, the frame building across the alley from the rear of the Rather Drug Store building, was the law office of the late Judge Jeremiah W. Clapp of Memphis. Chesley Smith collection.



Mayor E. H. Crump and his family of Memphis visits his mother and other relatives at the historic Crump Place during the Holly Springs centennial celebration in 1936. Mr. Mickle often spoke of Crump as one of three mayors that Holly Springs had contributed to Memphis. Photo from The Memphis Press Scimitar.



Children play on the lawn in front of the Presbyterian Church. Looking across Memphis Street, one can see the building which once was the bachelor quarters for Mayor A. W. Goodrich. The "Yellow Fever house," then the home of newspaperman W. J. L. Holland, is partially shown at the far right. Photo by Chesley Smith.



The Athey Drug Store on the square at the southeast corner of Van Dorn and Memphis Streets.
Shown in a photo by Olga Reed Pruitt, the old store is said to have been the only one that
continued operations throughout the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1878.



The Stephen Knapp-John T. Wade Place on West Chulahoma Avenue.
Chesley Smith collection.

Chapter VI. Newspapers.

1.

HISTORY, SO FAR AS KNOWN, OF NEWSPAPERS OF HOLLY SPRINGS AND MARSHALL COUNTY.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (October 10, 1935). By lineal descent, *The Holly Springs Reporter* will be seventy years old in December 1935, *The Holly Springs Reporter* having been founded in December 1865, and *The Independent South* in 1867.¹

¹ A. M. Clayton gives this account of early newspapers in the county. "Holly Springs has always had one or more good newspapers. The first ever published was a Democratic paper by E. Percy Howe, the name of which cannot be recalled.... Then there was a paper published for a short time by Pattillo & Curtis, Democratic in its politics. *The Conservative*, a Whig paper, was published by Foster & Falconer, followed by *The Holly Springs Gazette* by Thomas A. Falconer. The first number of this paper was issued July 28th, 1841, and continued nine years. *The Holly Springs Banner*, a Whig paper, was conducted by George A. Wilson, a man of vigorous intellect and for some time District Attorney. *The Marshall Guard*, a Democratic paper, was begun first January, 1842, by Robert Josselyn—lived several years and was a highly respectable paper. In November 1847, *The Weekly Jacksonian* was commenced by Lloyd Selby and kept up for four years, and was succeeded by *The Marshall Jeffersonian*, with Wyatt Epps, editor, November 1851. The first number of the *Mississippi Palladium* a Democratic States' Rights paper, was issued April 25, 1851, Henry Stith editor, Thomas A. Falconer, publisher.... In 1850, *The Holly Springs Gazette* passed into new hands, with F. D. Anderson and R. S. Stith, editors and proprietors destined to still farther changes in subsequent years. In 1851, James W. Williams began *The Marshall Guard*, which continued nearly three years. In April 1853, the first number of *The Mississippi Times* was issued, Samuel Benton editor and W. A. Tucker publisher; it continued to 1857.... In June 1853, *The Democratic Banner* was issued by W. H. Govan, and in November 1854, *The Empire Democrat* was commenced with J. H. R. Taylor as editor. At the commencement of the war, there were three papers published here, *The Southern Herald* by Thomas A. Falconer, *The Star*, by Solon L. Whittington, and *The Constitutional Union* by Upshaw & Barrett.... Since the war there has been one or two Radical papers here,

On January 1, 1920, C. H. Curd, proprietor of *The Holly Springs Reporter*, and the late Frank C. Mattison, proprietor of *The Holly Springs South*, combined the two papers under the name of *The South Reporter*, the first issue being dated January 2, 1920.²

The Reporter was founded by James Ballard, and was the first paper published in Holly Springs after the close of the War Between the States.

Ballard was a restless and erratic fellow, and in a few years sold the paper, for in a copy of September 3, 1869, Columbus Barrett was publisher, and later had his brother-in-law Kinloch Falconer associated with him. Major Falconer was Secretary of State when he came back here to attend his father and brother, Judge Thomas A. and Howard Falconer, in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878, and himself died from it.

Columbus Barrett had newspaper ambition, maybe from experience, before the war, for there was mention in a Holly Springs paper of 1860 that he would soon start a new paper, but possibly the war blocked it.

Col. John Calhoon, a young newspaperman from Canton, Miss., came here about 1869 and established *The Conservative*. Harry Bosworth, another young newspaperman from Canton, was associated with him a little later, I believe.

now discontinued, and *The Reporter* and *The South* still in existence, Democratic and Conservative in politics, and both maintaining a high reputation." *Centennial Address*, 12-14.

² See Mrs. C. H. Curd, "History of Newspapers in Marshall County," *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 42.

In the early seventies, Col. Calhoon acquired *The Reporter* and discontinued *The Conservative*, Bosworth returning to Canton.

Col. Calhoon had associated with him as editor W. J. L. Holland, who was to do heroic work and give his life in the yellow fever of 1878.

HOST OF PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Mississippi Press Association met here in the spring of 1878, with Holland as president and host. It was a brilliant meeting, and Holly Springs entertained them royally.

At its next meeting in 1879, the association ordered that a handsome memorial, a granite obelisk, to the five editors who lost their lives in the fever, be placed here, out of compliment to Holland. The association came in a body to the unveiling, to which the whole town turned out.

Names of the other editors on the monument are: Kinloch Falconer, W. J. Adams, O. V. Shearer, Singleton Garrett, and J. R. Allen. Adams was the son of the founder of *The Clarion*, which consolidated later with *The Ledger*, and became *The Jackson Clarion-Ledger*.

After the fever W. Logan Walker was associated with Col. Calhoon as business manager and advertising solicitor of *The Reporter* until 1886 when I bought the paper. Mr. Walker continued with me.

Frank Wall, Sr., was associated with me in 1891 in the publication of the paper, and in December 1891, Col. John Calhoon leased the paper and took in with him W. T. Barry, the bellwether of Holly Springs printers. Several years later, Col. Calhoon retired, and W. H. Anderson was associated with Barry.

Mr. Barry obtained a lease and bought the paper in 1895, and operated it until 1901, when he sold it to C. H. Curd, Sr. Mr. Curd took charge May 1, 1901, continued as editor and proprietor for nineteen years, until the consolidation of the two papers in 1920. Mr. Curd took the paper over in lean times, and it is a credit to him that he pulled through. He was the longest record of any.

SAME MAN FOUNDED SOUTH

The Holly Springs, or rather *The Independent South*, as it was first called, was established

in 1867 by Jim Ballard, who had previously founded *The Reporter*.

Founding papers seemed to be a habit with him. He would run them for a short while and then sell out. He established one at Waterford, but I do not recall the name.

He sold the paper to Col. E. W. Upshaw, who took with him his son, Alexander Bradford Upshaw, namesake of his maternal grandfather, Gen. A. B. Bradford, who was lieutenant-colonel of the First Mississippi Infantry in the Mexican War, under Col. Jefferson Davis, later to become president of the Confederacy.

It was Col. Upshaw, I believe, who changed the name of the paper from *The Independent South* to *The South*, arguing that the first name was a little too "chesty" for bridging the "bloody chasm left by the war." There was a paper published here for a year or so before the war called *The Independent South*, and perhaps Mr. Bradford may have had an idea of pre-dating his paper to antebellum days or just borrowed the title.

Col. Upshaw sold *The South* in the early seventies to Judge J. W. C. Watson.³ I do not

³ John William Clark Watson (1808-1890), was an imposing leader in the local community and in Southern affairs over the course of several generations. Born in Albemarle County, Virginia, and graduated in law from the University of Virginia. He came to Holly Springs about 1845. Like many of the town's leaders he was a Whig before the war. He was a Confederate senator for Mississippi from November 1863 until the fall of Richmond. The Watsons were a family in mourning. Two sons died in the Civil War. He was nominated to chair the 1867 Mississippi Constitutional Convention, where he argued that the education of freed slaves was necessary. With his friend Kinloch Falconer he briefly operated a school in Holly Springs for the freedmen. He exercised a powerful role in Mississippi's reconstruction affairs, bringing a moderating voice to the squabbles between Northern Republicans and bitter Southern Democrats. He was a member of a committee sent to call upon President Ulysses S. Grant to plead for more liberal treatment of their state. Later, Watson served in the state legislature, where he sponsored a bill establishing the Mississippi Railroad Commission, a bill he successfully defended before the U. S. Supreme Court—the high point of his legal career. When the state legislature refused to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution abolishing slavery and passed the infamous "black code," Watson was opposed, saying that the legislature had gone "entirely too far" in the

know whether Judge Watson had anyone associated with him at first, or not, but he had several associates with him later. My father, Maj. Belton Mickle, was with him in 1873, and W. T. Barry somewhere along.

Judge Watson was an able editor and lawyer, who once successfully represented the state in an important case before the U. S. Supreme Court.

His daughter, Miss Lizzie Watson, established Maury Institute, the forerunner of Mississippi Synodical College.

The firm was Watson & Johnston in 1876—J. C. Johnston, the father of the Hon. Oscar Johnston of Clarksdale. Later, Mr. Johnston and his brother Oscar were publishers for awhile.⁴ Henry C. Myers, who was appointed [Mississippi's] Secretary of State upon the death of Maj. Kinloch Falconer in 1878, was associated with Judge Watson in 1875.

Col. F. A. Tyler, part owner and associate of *The Memphis Ledger*, sold his interest and bought *The South* about 1877 or '78.

Col. Tyler was another of the old-time editors who gave distinction to their profession. His widow, Mrs. Rosa Barton Tyler, long an educator here, with Franklin Female College, now lives in Austin, Texas.

Manlius Hall, of *The Covington* (Tenn.) *Leader*, sold his interest in that paper and leased *The South* about 1889 for a year, and had Capt. Thomas Kemp, who had been publishing *The Byhalia Journal*, associated with him.

Mr. Hall bought the paper from Col. Tyler before the lease expired, I believe. Mr. Hall's

matter. He was a circuit court judge from 1876 to 1882, and in 1878, the University of Mississippi awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. See information and photos in *Memoirs of Mississippi*, 2:996-98; *Biographical Dictionary of the Confederacy*, 430-31; "Reconstruction in Mississippi," 161-62, 197; *Southern Tapestry*, 31-34, 98.

⁴ The Johnston brothers, originally of Jackson, Miss., should not be confused with their contemporaries, Jackson and Oscar Johnson, of Red Banks, who later made their fortunes in St. Louis. The Johnstons became cotton planters in the Delta, and were highly influential in its affairs.

wife was Miss Ella Mattison, daughter of Capt. and Mrs. J. B. Mattison of Holly Springs.

Mrs. Hall succeeded to the ownership of the paper upon the death of her husband in 1890, and Capt. Mattison became editor and business manager. He had no previous experience in the business, but managed it successfully for those lean years, and had a homey style of writing that appealed to his readers.

FRANK MATTISON TAKES HOLD

Upon the death of his father, Capt. J. B. Mattison in 1910, Frank C. Mattison was associated with Mrs. Hall, and soon after bought the paper, and continued as owner and editor until the consolidation of the papers in January 1920.

The South Reporter was a stock company, owned by C. H. Curd and Frank C. Mattison and certain members of their families. Frank Mattison was editor and manager, Mr. Curd, who had just been installed as county superintendent of education, being forbidden by law from engaging in other business.

The consolidated subscription lists gave the paper a net circulation much larger than either had enjoyed. The paper was improved with larger space devoted to local matters.

Bramwell Davis, of Charleston, Miss., bought the paper in July 1923, having sold his interest in *The Mississippi Sun* to his partner W. S. Meriwether.

Mr. Davis is, so far as I know the best-trained newspaperman ever connected with local papers. He had the experience from years of work on New York and Washington papers—in New York on *The Telegram, Press, Times, Journal, Herald*, and *Globe*.

He changed *The South Reporter* from a "patent side" to all home-print, and improved its appearance and reading matter. Still more space was devoted to local matters, and far more to county correspondence, making *The South Reporter* the hometown paper for each community.

He began publishing the 40-25-10 years ago—linking the present with the city's historic past. It was at his suggestion I began writing of the historic homes.

OTHER MARSHALL COUNTY PAPERS

In Republican days following the war, two brothers established a Republican paper in the late sixties, but I have forgotten their names as well as that of the paper. It lasted only a year or two.

These carpetbag editors first introduced "patient-side" newspaper in Mississippi, and I believe that accounted for the deep distrust and aversion in which they were held by southern editors long after carpetbag days.

Patent sides, it might be explained, had one side printed at home, and, for economy's sake, the other printed by the Kellogg Company (that originated and patented them) and shipped from the north. The papers got all of the legal printing, and the law requiring not less than 500 circulation, that number was ordered, and the papers piled up at the post office and anybody took a copy who chose.

Col. B. D. Nabors, a southern Republican, started a paper about 1873, but I have forgotten its name, and published it for about two years. He had been a Democrat before the war and lived in what is now Benton County. He and my grandfather, Dabney Minor, who was the only Democrat in the strong Whig neighborhood of Old Salem, were political friends. He was father of Mrs. John Chenowith of Washington, D. C.

The Greenback Party was going pretty strong here in the early eighties, and the Rev. Mr. Burton came here from Tennessee and established a paper which was discontinued in about two years, and he went back to Tennessee and resumed his profession of a Baptist minister. He was pastor of the Baptist Church at Collierville when he died.

Bob Mosby started *The Marshall County Register* (Democratic) about 1885, which lasted two years or so. C. L. Bates was editor for awhile.

The last venture here in a newspaper aside from *The South Reporter*, was *The Holly Springs Banner*, established in 1923 by George W. Price of Oxford. It did not last long.

Papers were published in Byhalia and Potts Camp for awhile. *The Byhalia Journal* was founded in the mid-eighties by Capt. Tom Kemp, I

believe, and was later acquired by M. D. Herring, who in turn sold it to John M. Eddins. It was discontinued about twenty years ago.

The late Dr. J. W. Vaughan started *The Potts Camp Illuminator* about 1890. It was printed on pink paper and had a short life.

Newspapers soon entered into the life of Holly Springs after it was founded in 1836. I have seen a copy of *The Holly Springs Gazette* for 1847, but do not recall the name of its editor or how old it was.

Judge Thomas A. Falconer had been an editor of long standing when the War of the Sixties stopped his paper, *The Southern Herald*. Then I had seen a copy of *The Empire Democrat* of April 6, 1855, S. M. Allen & Co., publishers, J. H. R. Taylor, editor. *The Independent South* was begun in 1861 and was also a war casualty. There were other antebellum papers, copies of which I have never seen.⁵

⁵ For another account of early Holly Springs newspapers, see Hamilton, 137-39.

2.

HOLLY SPRINGS EDITORS.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (January 4, 1940). This week *The South Reporter* turns over a new leaf, we change our volume number 74 to 75. This means that *The South Reporter* for 75 years has been a regular visitor to the homes of Marshall County.

The volumes of the paper would not run current with the fiscal year but for the fact that in 1920 when the two papers were united by this editor and his partner, the lamented Frank C. Mattison it was decided to begin our new year with Vol. 55 as each paper had been existence about that length of time.

From 1901 to 1920, *The Holly Springs Reporter* was owned by the present editor of *The South Reporter*.

The South had been owned and edited by Frank C. Mattison and his father, Capt. J. B. Mattison for many years.

We are going to ask the veteran printer and writer, John M. Mickle to step to the mike and tell us something about the men who were connected with these two papers since they were established.

MR. MICKLE SPEAKING

There were several newspapers published here when the War of the Sixties came and closed them up. An editor of one, through the columns of another, apologized for not issuing his paper as the whole force of editor and printers had enlisted with the Confederacy and were leaving that day for Pensacola, Fla.¹

The war ended in April 1865, finding Holly Springs without a paper. James Ballard, a restless fellow with a penchant for establishing papers, started *The Holly Springs Reporter* in 1865, but later sold it to Howard and Kinloch Falconer.

In the meantime, Col. John Calhoon and Harry Bosworth of Canton, Miss., had come

along and established *The Conservative*. After a few years it was discontinued and Mr. Bosworth returned to Canton and Col. Calhoon bought *The Reporter*.

He had associated with him as editor and advertising solicitor, W. J. L. Holland, who lived near Hudsonville and was a nephew of Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury, by whose charts the ships of the world sailed the seven seas.

Mr. Holland was president and host in the spring of 1878 to the Mississippi Press Association. When the scourge of yellow fever came that summer he remained as head of the relief work and died of it in October. The Association came here the next year and unveiled a handsome granite monument at Holland's grave, dedicated it to him and four other editors who had died of the fever.

In 1886 Col. Calhoon sold the paper to me and I published it until 1890 when I leased it to Col. Calhoon and W. T. Barry.

Mr. Barry bought the paper later and published it until he sold it to C. H. Curd in 1901.

Mr. Ballard again got into the game here in 1867 by establishing *The Independent South*, but in a few years sold it to Col. E. W. Upshaw, who had associated with him his son, A. B. (Bud) Upshaw.

They sold it Judge John W. C. Watson, one of the ablest lawyers in North Mississippi, who had for a time Maj. Belton Mickle and later W. T. Barry as associates.

Mr. Henry C. Myers bought Mr. Barry's interest and continued until he took the office of sheriff in 1876. He sold to Mr. Oscar Johnston and his brother of Jackson. The latter was father of Oscar Johnston, who is at present so prominent in cotton affairs. Col. F. A. Tyler one of the editors and owners of *The Memphis Evening Leader*, sold his interest and bought the Johnstons out and moved here early in 1878. He was prominent in Memphis journalism and I believe for a

¹ See p. 363.

time had an interest in and was one of the editors of *The Memphis Avalanche*.

Levi H. Manning, son of Congressman Van H. Manning, and for years publisher of *The Friars Point Coahomian*, leased *The South* for a year, when Col. Tyler resumed publication.

He leased for a year the paper in 1886 to Capt. Thomas Kemp, who had been one of the publishers of *The Byhalia Journal*, and Mr. Manlius Hall, one of the owners of *The Covington (Tenn.) Leader*.

At the expiration of the lease Mr. Hall bought the paper and continued to publish it until his death in 1890, having with him at different times Mr. Ed Watson, formerly of Byhalia, and Mr. Frank Wall Sr.

Following the death of Mr. Hall in 1890 his wife, Mrs. Ella M. Hall, took charge as owner with her father, Capt. J. B. Mattison, as editor and manager.

About 1908, Capt. Mattison's health having begun to fail, his son, Mr. Frank C. Mattison, then of Pittsburg, Texas, came and relieved him of much of the work. Shortly after Capt. Mattison's death in 1910, he bought the paper from his sister and published it until he and Mr. Curd merged the two papers January 1, 1920. For awhile Mrs. Mattison assisted her husband in gathering the news.¹

¹ Katherine L. Mattison recorded her memories of coming to Holly Springs from her home in Pittsburg, Texas, to join her husband Frank, in publishing *The Holly Springs South*. "Just twenty-eight years ago this October 22 [1936], Holly Springs claimed a new citizen who, like young Lochinvar, had come out of the West to begin the great adventure of living in a new place. She had met only three persons, members of her husband's family, and so life was indeed an exploration of new scenes, new personalities, new methods of living. Greeting my husband and me at the station was Herman Snider who escorted us to a 'hack' and sent us on our way. Coming up the hill near the Dunlap place, we passed a vehicle mired in the mud to the hubs. Our own team took a good deal of 'clucking' to pull through. We were greeted by the Mattison clan and ushered into the living room, cozy with warmth from the base burner, the first one I had ever seen. The rains had brought an early fall and the fire augmented the feeling of welcome. I liked my new in-laws at once. Next morning showed a different world from anything I had known. My surprise was great at the blind fences, the outhouses built up to the sidewalks,

Mr. Bramwell Davis, then of Charleston, Miss., bought *The South Reporter* from Messrs. Mattison and Curd in July 1923.

There is an old saying that once you get printer's ink on your fingers there's no getting it off and so Mr. Curd found it, for in January 1936 he bought the paper back and for most of the time has had his wife assisting him, and aside from personal friendship but judged on its merits I will say that it is the best paper that has been published in my time.

the unpainted houses and the number of light-colored Negroes who passed. We had a caller that morning, Mrs. Scruggs, the post mistress, who came out of her way to give me a greeting and to bring me a gift—a lace doily, which I have to this day. My orientation began at once, for the day next after was Sunday, and being good Presbyterians, we must go to church. Rev. C. Z. Berryhill was the pastor and I wish I had remembered the sermon; but my mind, easily diverted, was confused by so many new impressions....I remember the many Andersons (Jameses, Alberts, John E.'s, Ridleys, John M.'s), the Buchanans, McGowans, Franciscos, Smiths, Wells, Sailers, and the McWilliams, Dancys, Joneses (William and Egbert), Masons McCroskys, Browns and Walters, Finleys, Dunlaps, Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Johnson, Edgar Wests, Ameses, and the Raymonds, and all those brown uniform hats of the girls of M. S. College. The Crafts were not there for some reason. Mrs. Raymond was at the organ, and could she play! Dr. Raymond, Ridley, Mr. Jno. E., and Mrs. Walters were in the choir. There was quite a reception after the service, and among those I met were Miss Mary Paine, Miss Anna Davis and Dr. and Mrs. Gholson, the latter charming me with her lovely, cultured voice. I found that every one had his own pew and a guest must be invited to sit with the pre-emptor. The friendly atmosphere made me feel at home and I decided to cast my lot with these people, and so was saved for the Presbyterians. Within a week or two, the Presbyterian ladies staged their annual bazaar where I met many other people and ate some of the oysters cooked by Mrs. Raymond and Mrs. Wells. Were they good!..." *One Hundred Years*, 27.

3.

PRINTERS' DEVILS OF OLD HOLLY SPRINGS.

Delivered Papers Weekly to City Subscribers, and Carried Around
Ornamental Cards at Christmas.—Ed Crump and Bob Dancy
Among Those Who Served.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (December, 19__). In the late eighties, the two papers, now combined in *The South Reporter*, were delivered in the city on the morning of publication by the "printer's devils."

Mr. Hall of Covington, Tenn., married Miss Ella Mattison, daughter of the late Capt. and Mrs. J. B. Mattison of Holly Springs. Later he sold his interest in *The Leader*, at Covington and bought *The South* from Col. F. A. Tyler, and began mailing his city list through the post office, and we all wondered why we had not thought of it before.

It had been the custom on Christmas Day for the carriers to leave at the doors of subscribers copies of *The Carrier's Address*, usually a four page folder, somewhat ornate in fancy type and borders and colored ink. Patrons contributed what they pleased.

My boyhood neighbor, school-fellow of old Chalmers Institute, and friend ever since, Henry P. Mitchell of St. Louis, sends me a copy of *The Carrier's Address* he and Avant Walter took around when they were printer's devils on *The Reporter*. The heading reads:

*Carriers' Christmas Greetings
to the
Patrons and Friends
of the
Holly Springs Reporter
December 25, A.D., 1871,
by Avant Walter and Henry Mitchell.*

There were several poems, two of them acrostics, the initials of the lines in one spelling Avant Walter and Henry Mitchell; and the other William Barry.

Bill Barry was the foreman and always took great pride in turning out *The Carriers' Address*. The poems were written by Mrs. Harry Bosworth, wife of one of the owners of *The Reporter*.

Both boys lived on Chulahoma Street. Avant, who was a son of Col. H. W. Walter, lived in Mrs. M. A. Greene's present home; and Henry Mitchell lived in the Eugene Hurdle home.¹

Avant, with his father and brothers, Frank and Jimmie, gave their lives in the yellow fever of 1878.

In delivering the papers Henry took the west side of town and Avant the east side. Henry's largest contribution was fifty cents, while some munificent subscriber gave Avant a dollar.

I came on as a printer's devil in 1874, and Nat Puryear preceded me.

I suspect Bob Davidson, until recently owner of *The Friars Point Coahomian*, took 'em around in his early days, as also Will McVey, who has been with *The Commercial Appeal* for years.

Most of the other carriers I recall worked for *The Reporter*—Joe Lucas, Lee Blythe, Mercer Mickle, Ed Crump, and Ike Mulcahy. Minor Mickle was carrier for *The South* under Col. F. A. Tyler, as later was Bob Dancy.

Most of these printers devils have gone out; not a few made good: Avant Walter died a hero's death; genial Henry Mitchell has been on the job

¹ The house stood at the southwest corner of Chulahoma Avenue and Minor Street, where the Baptist pastorum is presently located.

(not printing) for these many years; Minor Mickle was long with the Standard Oil in China, Will McVey has been for years with *The Commercial Appeal*; Bob Davidson, besides being one of the three founders of *The Jackson News*, founded *The Friars Point Coahomian*; Ike Mul-

cahy has been a valued office man wherever placed; Ed Crump, after several terms as mayor of Memphis, is beginning his congressional career at Washington, D. C.; and Bob Dancy is rounding out his second term as sheriff.

4.

SINGS SWAN SONG.

John M. Mickle Served Holly Springs Paper Well.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (January 4, 1920). Swan song of *The Holly Springs Reporter* was tenderly sung by John M. Mickle, who has served the paper and its patrons many years. Mr. Mickle's parting with the old sheet follows:

GOOD-BYE, OLD REPORTER

"It is with a feeling of sadness that for the last time as a separate newspaper I change the dates and number of the old *Reporter*. We have grown old together and passed through many experiences, some pleasant, some otherwise. As a boy I carried it around on Thursday mornings and threw it on the porch in time for the patrons to have it with their morning coffee. Some of these good friends, praise God, are still with us in this good old town of Holly Springs, and I am sure that they will pause sometime amid to-day's festivities to join with me in some bitter-sweet memories of the long ago.

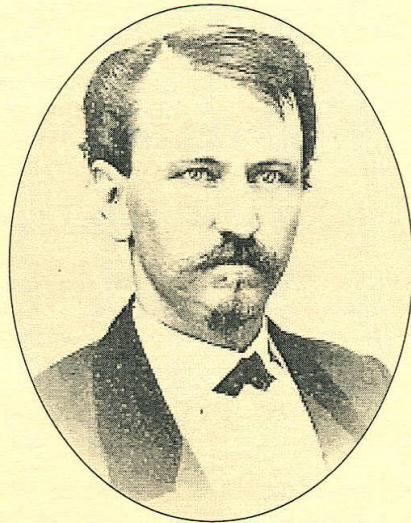
"My connection with the paper was intermittent; once I became the proprietor. Ah! The hopes and ambitions of young manhood! I can smile at them now.

"It is meet that I should put the old paper to sleep; close its eyes and cross its hands.

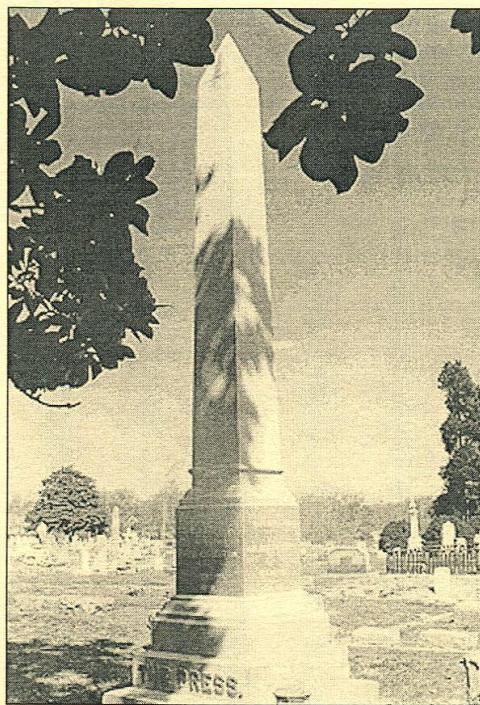
"But I do not grow pessimistic with age; there is more of good than of bad, more of sunshine than of shadow in the world; and in the union of the two papers there will be strength and effort for better things and the spirits of *The South Reporter*, dear to the friends of both, will be there working to that end.

"So to old friends and new alike, on this glorious Christmas Day, I wish a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Sincerely,

"JOHN M. MICKLE."



Col. John Calhoon, prominent Holly Springs newspaperman.
Calhoon was associated in the ownership of The Reporter with W. J. L. Holland
and sold The Reporter to Mr. Mickle in 1886.
Photo from the Walther-Freeman scrapbook, Marshall County Historical Museum.



The Mississippi Press Association monument in Hill Crest Cemetery, honoring editors
who died reporting the yellow fever epidemic, including W. J. L. Holland of Holly Springs.
Photo by R. Milton Winter.

Chapter VII. Transportation.

1.

OLD I. C. DEPOT ONCE CENTER OF CITY LIFE.

Protests of Citizens in Early Fifties Prevented Location of Tracks and Railroad Station Any Closer to Center of Town.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (November 6, 1930). When the Mississippi Central Railroad, now the Illinois Central, was preparing to enter Holly Springs in the early fifties they planned to cut through town and locate the depot at the Arthur Place, now the McDowell Place, on Salem Avenue,¹ but such a storm of protests arose that the change was made to the present site of the Illinois Central Station.² It was called 'depot' until after the coming of the Illinois Central Road.³

Holly Springs was headquarters for the road. Walter Goodman, the president, and other officials lived here, and the shops and a roundhouse were located here.

Harper's Weekly sent a staff writer here early in the war who made a sketch, among others, of the depot, showing the shops and the old hotel.⁴ The two-story west wing of the present hotel

was part of the old one. The shops and roundhouse were destroyed during the war—in Van Dorn's raid, I think. After the war the shops were rebuilt at Water Valley, and those that were wise to it made a good "spec" on real estate there.

The depot has become Americanized, with very few foreign-born people. At first it was largely foreign, and not many negroes until the early eighties. The Irish predominated and there were some Swedes and Germans and one Scotsman—Robert Hastings.⁵

Mr. Hastings was living at Old Wyatte on the Tallahatchie River when the railroad came to Holly Springs, and he came soon after. Wyatte, he told me, was a town of five hundred inhabitants, had a bank and, believe it or not, was at the head of navigation. Rivers and streams were deeper and had fewer obstructions and steam-boats could come up. Not a trace of old Wyatte remains.

CATHOLICS NUMEROUS THEN

The Roman Catholic congregation was at its high tide here from 1865 to 1890, there was a fair sized congregation, a resident priest and a

¹ This house has been torn away. It stood on the South side of Salem Avenue, between "Montrose" and "Airliewood," in the space now occupied by the Holly Springs Garden Club Arboretum. See photo in *Southern Tapestry*, 19.

² After the initial fervor for railroads cooled, many communities resisted their coming. The village of Grand Junction, Tennessee, was brought into being about 1856, after the sedate community of LaGrange, a few miles west, refused to allow the Mississippi Central & Tennessee Railroad to form its crossing with the Memphis & Charleston line within the limits of their community, saying that "One railroad through our village is enough." Sam Jennings, et. al., *Grand Junction, Tennessee: A Pictorial History* (privately published): 7.

³ See *Written in the Bricks*, 91-98.

⁴ The artist was Alexander Simplot, and his interesting drawings provide virtually the only visual records of life in Holly Springs, Grand Junction, La

Grange and Davis' Mills during this period. See Patti Carr Black, *Art in Mississippi, 1720-1980* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1998): 108. Simplot made his sketches before Van Dorn's incursion of December 1860 into North Mississippi and West Tennessee, and by the time they were published, January 13, 1863, the scenes he recorded looked much different.

⁵ Robert Hastings (1824-1906), born in Thornhill, Scotland, who had a store near the depot, built the house that stands at 450 East College Avenue. It was bought by Lanier Holland in 1954.

school for girls—Bethlehem Academy—that was well attended.¹

There were some fine priests here then at St. Joseph's Church, and outstanding was Father Wise, a jolly Irishman, beloved alike by Catholic and Protestant. He survived the yellow fever at Yazoo City and died there a few years ago, and his funeral was attended by all classes.

Father Oliver was another fine man, and the only native Mississippian ever stationed here. He later went to Jackson, Miss., and built the new Roman Catholic Church there. At his death by special permission of the city authorities, his body was buried beneath the altar.

When I was about five years old I went with my mother to St. Joseph's Church one Sunday, much against my will, though I said nothing. I had heard that Catholics stoned and burned Protestants, and I decided that when the first stone crashed I would run to Joseph Farrell the only person I knew there. I did not know then that in the dark ages religious controversialists burned each other.²

The nuns kept a watchful eye on their charges at Bethlehem Academy, but cloistered beauty was ever a strong challenge for youth, and the boys found means of slipping notes and candy to the girls. The boys never acted as rough as at the uptown schools, due to gallantry; I believe, there were none but women at the convent.

The girls themselves, were not altogether "prunes and prisms," for I remember passing

there in the dusk one evening and saw about twenty of them in the yard, with, an unusual occurrence, no nun in sight, and all—horrors!—smoking cigarettes, and that in the eighties, turned the lights defiantly toward the street. That was only a feminine gesture against restrictions, though.³

³ The promise of St. Joseph's parish was almost swept away by the Civil War. In September 1861, the Sisters of Charity who had come to Holly Springs to assist the school were nursing the wounded in the courthouse. On April 4, 1862 it was reported that there were 600 in the Holly Springs hospital. The priest, Father Basilio Elia, was unable to visit all the Catholic wounded or administer the consoling rites of his Church to them as they died. After Shiloh, trainloads of wounded started arriving in Holly Springs and Oxford—so many that Bishop William Henry Elder himself came from Natchez to help. Unfortunately, Holly Springs was not to remain a quiet refuge for the wounded. In November 1862, Grant's army occupied the town. The Sisters were alerted, and except for a few patients too ill to be moved, all hospitals were evacuated. Van Dorn's raid on Holly Springs, on December 20, destroyed 1.5 million dollars of Federal supplies and left the small Union guard with little to do but wreak havoc upon local citizens and property. Cyrus F. Boyd, a soldier of the 15th Iowa Infantry, recorded, December 22, 1862, that "soldiers could be seen [pillaging] everywhere...in every house and garret and cellar, store and church..." He tells of the desecration of "a fine large Roman Catholic Church." Because of unfamiliarity with the town, it could be that Boyd mistook the new Episcopal church for the Catholic (recall that small-town churches did not have signs as is the custom to-day), but because this source for local history is not well-known, the account printed in full: "A lot of soldiers were in the building, some were taking the organ to pieces and had the pipes out blowing on them and throwing them away. Up in the pulpit was a squad playing cards and another lot were scattering the library over the floor. One daring and reckless soldier climbed to the pinnacle of the temple and took off the little silver image of 'Jesus' that stood there. It was at a giddy height but he got it—said to be worth several hundred dollars." Father Elia's congregation for the most part dispersed as both the iron foundry and the railroad shops that had employed his people went out of operation. Unable to reach Natchez, he refugee to Memphis, and from time to time visited the Catholics who remained in Holly Springs. By 1863, Elia had moved his labors elsewhere, and it was years before Holly Springs had another resident priest. After the war, the town slowly revived, but the railroad shops moved to Water Valley, and much of the Catholic population followed. Notwithstanding, a petition containing thirty-six names was presented to Bishop Elder in January 1866, requesting "a college for young ladies." Elder asked the Sisters of Charity at Nazareth, Kentucky to operate the school. The follow-

¹ See *It Happened Here*, 29-30.

² In Mr. Mickle's day, the Episcopal Church was still called the Protestant Episcopal Church, and the close ecumenical relation which now prevails between the Episcopal and Roman Catholic communions had not yet begun to emerge. Thirteen-year-old Belle Strickland, who was reared in the First Baptist Church of Holly Springs, had a more feminine reaction on her first visit to a service in St. Joseph's Church on Easter Day, 1868. As she told her diary, on April 13th of that year: "Sunday I went to the Catholic Church with Mary, and was highly delighted at the performance. It was Easter and the Church was trimmed very prettily indeed. There were a great many people there from other churches, and some of them couldn't get seats." Her comments reflect the interest that non-liturgical Protestants were taking in that era in the services of the more ritualistic churches—interests that caused Protestant churches to embrace a more ritualized manner of worship." *Civil War Women*, 169-70.

DIFFICULTIES OF TRAVEL

Railroad travel in the early years entailed an unbelievable amount of trouble, vexation, and danger.¹ The railroad had no telegraph after the war,² or possibly before, and passengers dared not leave the depot less they miss the train, which might be delayed for hours by washout.³

The diminutive locomotives were gorgeous in brass trimmings, with enormous smoke stacks. Wood was the fuel and a train of sparks flew from the funnel, and were a source of many fires along the roadside but they were pretty at night. Locomotives were named after prominent local men, the name heavily lettered in brass; the only one I recall was the "A. M. Clayton." There may have been method in this, as there was an impression that some of these big men presented the road with a locomotive, though I can't imag-

ing September, H. W. Walter told Elder that local Catholics had collected \$3,500. Eight nuns arrived in September 1868 and set to work. Bethlehem Academy immediately enrolled fifty pupils. It was first located in the former Carrington Mason home at the foot of Memphis Street. As the school grew, it moved in 1869 or 1870 to the Pointer Place on Salem Avenue, where it remained until it finally closed about 1890. (That house is long gone, but a memory in the name of the little road that runs south from Salem Avenue by the railroad tracks—Bethlehem Street) Old St. Joseph's Church in Holly Springs has recently been restored as a shrine to the sisters who gave their lives nursing victims of yellow fever in 1878. The church houses a museum with artifacts illustrating the early development of Catholicism in North Mississippi. See James J. Pillar, *The Catholic Church in Mississippi, 1837-1865* (New Orleans: Hauser Press, 1964): 97-100, 140, 143, 196, 212, 222-26, 229, 235, 240, 245, 258-59, 280, 286. Sister Joan Kobe, D. W. "History of the Old St. Joseph's Church," (unpub. typescript, Oct. 4, 1994); See information and photos in Miller-Smith, 78, 82; *Southern Tapestry*, 69, 72, 82, 85, 100, 168.

¹ See Chesley Thorne Smith, ed., *Travel in the 1840s* (Holly Springs: privately published, 2001).

² In a report that may or not be precisely factual, Olga Reed Pruitt nonetheless captured the excitement of a key moment in local history when she wrote that the most important event that ever occurred at the Holly Springs depot took place in April 1865, when the first news received by North Mississippi of Lee's surrender clattered out over the Mississippi Central's wires: "One of Henderson's scouts brought the news from Memphis whereupon the operator sat down and hastily sent this message, 'Hell's to pay, Lee's surrendered.'" *It Happened Here*, 73.

³ The telegraph came into commercial use in 1844, but was not adopted by railroads until 1851.

ine "Uncle Mosby" being that reckless with his cash.⁴

Brakemen had a hard time in the old hand-brake days, having to stay at their posts during the run, and passenger cars had no protecting vestibules. Streetcar drivers in the cities were also unprotected in the early days.

Did you know that Holly Springs boasted a streetcar line once?—about 1873-78. Sam West drove the only passenger car, pulled by one big mule, fare 10 cents. There were two flat freight cars.

The line ran from the present post office on College Avenue to the Freeman corner, turning [north] on Walthall Street [to] John E. Anderson's corner, then on to opposite the Holly Springs Stoneware Factory,⁵ then south to the freight office. The passenger car was called the J. M. Scruggs, after a popular lawyer.⁶

PERSONNEL OF THE SERVICE

Tom Garner, agent, Jim Hall and Mike Mee, with the help of a negro porter ran the ticket and freight office, telegraph and all, in the early seventies; and no limit to working hours. I don't believe there were any night men.

Tom Bryant was freight agent for a long time in later years, and John Hines served in both offices. Fred Hines of Jackson, Tenn., a brother of John, is still a passenger conductor on the I. C. Road. Another popular conductor on that road for years was the late P. B. M. Wilson.

⁴ Hamilton, 54-67; see R. Milton Winter, "Holly Springs Builds a Railroad," *The Green Diamond: Magazine of the Illinois Central Railroad Historical Society* 64 (March 2003): 7-16.

⁵ The Freeman Corner was at East College Avenue and North Walthall Street, where the Walthall-Freeman house still stands. Mr. Anderson lived at the corner of North Walthall Street and what is now Fant Avenue, in the home presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Perry Breithaupt. The line ran along what is now Fant Avenue behind "Airiewood" to the stoneware factory, which was located near the present Holly Springs Surgical Clinic. The Jug Factory, or the more dignified term, Holly Springs Stoneware Company, owed its existence to the enterprise of J. E. Anderson and others. Albert Herr, a part owner and master potter, was the key man of the institution until its death. Its products were sold through the firm of Anderson & McCrosky. See *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 13.

⁶ See photo, Miller-Smith, 110.

Conductor Holder was the first conductor on the Frisco accommodation, and Wade the brakeman, both popular men, as were Ben Poppin and Ed Wilder. Holly Springs was the terminus for much of that time.¹

For a time there were four passenger trains meeting on the two roads in the morning at the same hour, at the I. C. Station. Occasionally passengers would be carried off on the wrong train.²

When the I. C. Road built the hotel,³ society adopted the depot⁴ and it was the proper thing to take dinner there. There were occasional dances and suppers. Mr. Lougee, now of Madison, Wis., was the first manager, and the chef was from New Orleans, and the best food the markets afforded from the lakes to the gulf, was served.⁵

CHEERFUL SURROUNDINGS

The dining room was amply warmed by a big stove, but a blazing fireplace looked cheerful, and with a pile of plates warming before it the psychology was complete. Boy! that was a meal.⁶

¹ Railroad men were regarded as celebrities, almost as astronauts in the present day. Most readers of to-day can recall when similar status was accorded to airline pilots.

² In later years, the Frisco, as the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway was popularly called, arranged for its four daily passenger trains to meet at the same hour in Springfield, Missouri, where its Oklahoma City and Birmingham lines to Kansas City and St. Louis crossed. That arrangement continued until the mid-1960s.

³ There were twenty guest rooms on the second floor.

⁴ In the manner of all large Southern towns, the station had three waiting rooms, one for men, one for women—and one for Negroes. The ladies' waiting room had a big bed. Children enjoyed sleeping in it while waiting for a train or for someone to pick them up to take them to their homes in the country.

⁵ See information and photos in Mary Eleanor Kerr Wyatt, "The Depot and Related areas of Holly Springs, Mississippi," (unpublished research paper, n.d.); *A Vanishing America*, 72, 73; R. Milton Winter, "The Mississippi Central and the Illinois Central," *The Green Diamond: Magazine of the Illinois Central Railroad Historical Society* 65 (June 2003); *It Happened Here*, 72-73; *Southern Tapestry*, 84.

⁶ According to Mrs. Wyatt, the splendid dining room had seats for 125. Photos of the room and of smiling waiters dressed all in white confirm the assertion of townspeople that the populace did indeed turn out to dine there in large numbers. A. G. Weems, writing in *The Memphis Commercial Appeal* (Febru-

The late Capt. Sam Frank, on one of his annual trips to Europe, called on a cotton firm in Liverpool: "Holly Springs—yes, that's where I got that good dinner two years ago," one of them said.

Genial old Buck Hill was a later host, and later, for many years, Bob McDermott dispensed hospitality. Dan Bonds succeeded Bob.

The depot was always a colorful place up to about twenty years ago, especially at night, and there was much night life there then, as well as up town. Hugh Cassidy's saloon was a great resort and Hugh was a character. I wish I had secured one of his tall beer schooners, and a heavy water and bar glass for my cabinets, if I ever own one. The water and whiskey glasses figured in bar room fights, frequently.

There was life and color and adventure there, for there were frequent fights. Jim Kelly was policeman, and a typical Irishman. The late C. P. J. Mooney of *The Commercial Appeal* always looked him up on his visits to our home in the years gone by.

ELECTION HEADQUARTERS

East Holly Springs election box was at the depot, and when Irish and politics are mixed there is something doing. It was the campaign of 1876, with Tilden, Democrat, and Hays, Republican, candidate for president, and Manning, Democrat, for Congress.

The Democratic Club from town with torches and uniforms, headed by the old Holly Springs Silver Comet Band, and Gen. Featherton to speak, went out.

The depot gave them a royal welcome, and filched a cannon cast for the club at Berglund's foundry north of Salem bridge,⁷ but never tested.

ary 29, 1948) remembered the depot as "an oasis on the I. C. where the engineers fought their watches to bring their passengers in on time for dinner. For the depot was more than a ticket and baggage office. It was a hotel with 20 or more rooms on its second floor. It was a spacious dining room, where only the best of everything was served. It was a place where devotees of good dishes came from miles around to feast on quail and other wild game. And on Saturday night it was THE place to make merry and dance."

⁷ This note indicates that iron casting must have continued or been revived for a time at Holly Springs

It was fired by a hot iron rod, and as Albert Herr was about to touch it off, Bose Job snatched it from him and fired the cannon. Bose's leg was shot off and Albert knocked silly for some time. Poor Bose, he was a schoolmate at old Chalmers Institute and always sunny natured, even when he was lying on the ground with his leg shot off. He wore a peg leg the rest of his life.¹

The youth of the town in the nineties frequently visited the depot and the stunts they pulled off are among the classics of local night life history.

I cannot miss one memory of the early seventies and that is Jim House's big four-horse, forty-passenger bus, with Sam West on the boot, and Jim Ballard, conductor, swinging on behind. "R-a-i-l-r-o-a-d!" was a thrilling sound.²

Roman Catholic priests exercise more control over the children in some parts of Europe than in America, a foreign-born friend, who told this story, informed me. They are privileged to enter the schools and administer punishment for infractions of conduct. A German priest here tried to box the ears of some of his youthful charges on the street, but young Irish-Americans wouldn't stand for it, and shelled him with bricks.

in the years after the Jones, McIlwain foundry was heavily damaged in the Civil War.

¹ See Ruth Watkins, "Reconstruction in Marshall County," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society* 12 (1912).

² See *It Happened Here*, 28.

2.

ACCOMMODATION TRAIN PASSES INTO HISTORY.**Discontinuation of Local Catering on the Frisco from Here to Memphis
Recalls Inauguration of Service to This City in 1884.**

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (January 21, 1932). So the old accommodation train on the Frisco Road has been taken off—as such trains have been the country over, due to competition of automobiles and buses.

But those who remember the eighties and nineties will feel a catch in the throat as they read this. I have decided, therefore, to offer today's story as a stirrup cup to the old accommodation train as it hits the long trail towards the setting sun.

The first section of the road, then called, as I remember, the Kansas City, Memphis & Birmingham R. R., was completed from Memphis to Holly Springs in 1884,¹ and Holly Springs remained the eastern terminal for several years.²

The accommodation remained here overnight and the early train and engine crews had some likable fellows among them. Conductor Holden was the first conductor, and Ben Popham was another; Ed Wilder, flagman, I recall. Harvey Campbell, engineer, came a little later.

And who can forget Harry Litty? Genial, whole-souled Harry. He later moved to Memphis and studied law—and by-the-way, was for a short time mayor of Memphis, making three mayors—Lucas Clapp, Edward H. Crump, and Harry H.

¹ The last spike was driven for the rail line between Memphis and Holly Springs on May 13, 1885 at Byhalia. *Southern Tapestry*, 82.

² The crossing of two railroad lines in Holly Springs was a great boon to a town that had suffered devastating losses in both population and fiscal health through war and plague, and though the "Grand" Junction twenty-five miles north did not prosper because of its railroad connections, there was a significant interchange of passengers and freight at Holly Springs—especially because of the location of a cotton compress and warehouse there. See *Southern Tapestry*, 84-85.

Litty—that Holly Springs has furnished Memphis, but unlike the first two he was not native.

STATION A SOCIAL CENTER

The coming of the railroad from Memphis made the depot,³ or I had better say station, almost a social center, there was always a crowd out there at train time.⁴ And Walter Roberts' bus was a prominent feature. Walter was such a clever fellow no one could successfully compete with him.

The I. C. Road built the hotel at the depot about that time and that added to the attractions. Since the Magnolia Hotel, which was destroyed during Van Dorn's raid in 1862, Holly Springs has never had such a hotel, as long as the road conducted it.⁵

³ Hubert McAlexander has written that, "The greatest event of the period was the building of another railroad through Marshall County—the Kansas City, Memphis, and Birmingham. Crossing the county from northwest to southeast, it changed trading patterns and led to the founding of new towns and the enhancement of others." *Southern Tapestry*, 82. Such communities as Byhalia, Red Banks, and Potts Camp, owed much to the advent of the railroad.

⁴ A generation later, Chesley Smith recalled that "every Sunday afternoon folks would drive to the depot to watch the train come in. Sometimes passengers would get off and there might be others to go aboard. A funny little train called "Bilbo" ran between Holly Springs and Grenada, no doubt so-nicknamed because of the efforts of Theodore G. Bilbo, the state's colorful governor to replace the university's board of trustees and president in 1930, Dr. Alfred Hume. In the 20s, Gus [Smith, who later became Chesley's husband], would ride Bilbo to the University where he graduated in 1926." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 26. This was a gas-electric car that operated instead of a full-length train hauled by a steam locomotive.

⁵ The magnificent depot, in French Chateauesque style with steep roofs and three prominent towers—unique in the railroad architecture of America—was completed in 1886 under the supervision of the Illinois

The food was celebrated, and Buck Hill, who came a little later as clerk, was liked by everybody. This was the main line of the I. C. Road then and many national and international celebrities were to be seen, and that helped to draw the crowd.

Gen. Beauregard of Confederate fame, Adalina Patti, great opera singer, Sara Bernhardt, queen of tragedy, and John L. Sullivan, at the peak of his glory, and going down to serve his short term of imprisonment for licking Jake Kilrain, and which he spent hunting quail as guest on the plantation of some big gun who bought his time. These were some who came to mind.

LONG TRIP TO MEMPHIS

Comparatively few visits were made to Memphis prior to the building of the [Kansas City, Memphis & Birmingham] road. It took practically two days to make the round trip, with long, dreary waiting at Grand Junction, and high railroad fares.¹ The walls of the old waiting room at

Central's master carpenter, J. B. Lee. The new building incorporated a portion of the old depot, which may still be seen at the north end of the building. The walkway between the station and the tracks was wooden, not brick, at first. There were large vats in the ground in the back yard for making carbide gas for lights. For years it was the largest station between Chicago and New Orleans. As the mid-point of the southern half of the route, it was a major stopping point. Here crews changed and passengers stepped off the train to rest. There is a geological survey marker on the front of the building which surveyors use as a starting point for running lines. After ceasing to serve railroad purposes in 1926, the building was used for a time as a factory. Then in the 1960s, it was magnificently restored for use as a private home by Dr. and Mrs. R. L. Wyatt. See Mary Eleanor Kerr Wyatt, "The Depot and Related Areas of Holly Springs, Mississippi" (unpub. research paper, n.d.); Janet Greenstein Potter, *Great American Railroad Stations* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1996): 261-62; *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 155-56.

A rail link to Memphis (via Grand Junction, Tennessee) was completed February 21, 1856, and until 1884, when the Kansas City, Memphis & Birmingham line was completed, train travel to Memphis was by way of Grand Junction. The trip, though faster than by stagecoach, was still tedious, and the train schedules left much to be desired. Ten-and-a-half hours were required to make the northbound trip; *Holly Springs South* (December 13, 1894): 1.

Grand Junction were penciled with names, dates, etc., and some not very nice comments.²

Quite a number of people from the town and country moved to Memphis about this time, and there was much visiting back and forth, which supplied good business for the train.³

Christmas time was the big event of the year with the train [full of] returning shoppers and homecoming Memphians.⁴ Whiskey was to be had aplenty and there was an uncomfortable lot of boisterousness.⁵

² Before completion of the new Illinois Central station, with its restaurant and hotel in 1882, travelers recorded similar criticisms of conditions at Holly Springs. A European on his way from New Orleans to the East Coast, wrote in 1861 that, "it was a relief to get out of the train for a few minutes at Holly Springs, Mississippi, where the passengers breakfasted at a dirty table on most execrable coffee, corn bread, rancid butter, and very dubious meat." William Howard Russell, *My Diary North and South*, ed. by Fletcher Pratt (New York: Harper & Bros., 1954): 158.

³ Former Confederate leaders often had to cast about before finding a means of making a living. Many were prevented from practicing their old professions. Some moved away from Holly Springs, including J. W. Clapp and Carrington Mason, who moved to Memphis, while J. B. Mattison took his family to Indiana. Walter Goodman and John Chew went to New York, and Goodman's son Walter A. Goodman relocated to Memphis. Others, such as the J. W. C. Watsons, stayed home, but allowed their women to go to work teaching school. The once-prosperous Colonel Dixon Topp's daughter, Ella at the old Coxe Place, envisioned a market garden with Kate Bonner, shipping the produce to Chicago on the nearby Mississippi Central Railroad. *Civil War Women*, 21; *Prodigal Daughter*, 144. See also Daniel E. Sutherland, *The Confederate Carpetbaggers* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana University Press, 1988).

⁴ Mary Virginia Grigsby Foley, whose father was pastor of the Presbyterian Church (1897-1904), recalled that "a queer Christmas custom was shooting fire crackers, Roman candles and skyrockets, all of which are generally used on the Fourth of July. Our Northern cousins thought this custom absolutely reprehensible." *Memories of Childhood in Holly Springs*, 29, 30.

⁵ Ten-year-old Belle Strickland described a Civil War Christmas in Holly Springs for her diary, Monday, December 25th 1865. "Papa gave [me] a book of queens of England to read by Christmas, which I thought I could do very easily but there were three volumes in one and I cannot read them all....We all hung up our stockings and got them very full of good things. We did not get any toys in our stockings but we got them full of candy, raisins, nuts, and all such things. Monday morning we got our presents. I got two bottles of cologne and a candy heart and fish. I

The road was first projected to the late sixties, as the Memphis, Selma & Marion Railroad, and this part of the road was graded and then abandoned.

About twenty miles of the road was constructed and operated from Marion, Ala., to Marion Junction. My father, Maj. Belton Mickle, was a civil engineer on that end, and my mother and brother, Minor Mickle, and I spent several months in Marion with him.

If I am not mistaken, Dr. T. W. Raymond's father was pastor of the Presbyterian Church and Dr. Gwaltney, father of Mrs. Raymond, was president of a large Baptist school for girls there.

SIMILARITY OF CLASSES

Even as a child I saw much similarity between Marion and Holly Springs. Both were school towns and settled by a lot of mighty good people.¹

We lived with Mrs. Lockett, and her place must have been beautiful before the war. The husband of one of her daughters was later on the state Supreme Court bench and had the peculiar distinction of reversing some of the court's previous rulings, made in the carpetbag days.

The husband of another daughter became paralyzed and they went to Galveston for his health. In the great storm, as the water rose, he was moved to the second floor; and as escape was impossible as the rise continued, his wife refused to leave and perished with him.²

The state convicts were used to grade this end of the line, after construction on the Marion end had been completed. The bad custom leasing the convicts obtained then, now happily abolished.

In the survey one of Mrs. Lockett's sons, whom I had known in Marion was a member of

also got a cologne bottle. Christmas day I went up to see Aunt Mollie and caught her Christmas gift. I took dinner with Mrs. Govan with Papa, and Mrs. Govan gave Minnie and I some candy and cake which we brought home." *Civil War Women*, 135-36.

¹ Marion, Alabama, is still known for its beautiful old homes and tree-lined streets.

² The great Galveston hurricane occurred September 8, 1900, resulting in 8,000 deaths.

the party, and I spent the night with him in camp, at the spring on or near Cottrell Cemetery.³

The line was changed in the eighties from Memphis to Birmingham and convicts were again used in grading the present roadbed. One, a negro named Tunstall, had committed an atrocious murder in my boyhood on the Tunstall plantation near Victoria, and his death sentence had been commuted to life imprisonment a few hours before that set for his execution.

Now he had become a trusty and unguarded drove an ox-wagon to and from camp. It was said that he was released to spend weekends on the Tunstall plantation with home folks.

This is the saga of the accommodation train. "Old things have passed away, behold all things are new," says the Bible. Attention of Mr. Henry Ford—Please step on it and get the number of my car.⁴

³ The cemetery, named for Bishop Elias Cottrell, of the Colored (now Christian) Methodist Episcopal Church, is located at the corner of West Boundary Street and Highway 178. *It Happened Here*, 25-26.

⁴ Few Holly Springs residents of this era owned cars. Mary Virginia Grigsby Foley recalled that her father made his round of pastoral calls in town on a bicycle. When the time came to visit parishioners who lived in the country, Dr. Grigsby would rent a horse and buggy, often taking one of his children with him. Mary Virginia recalled that "The countryside was nice and we would be served the most luxurious food at noon. Fried chicken was always the 'piece de resistance.'" Older residents recall that Mr. Mickle walked. *Memories of Childhood in Holly Springs*, 40, 56.

3.

STREET RAILWAY ONCE HOLLY SPRINGS BOAST.

One Passenger Car, Drawn by Big Mule, Driven by Sam West,
Connected City With Railroad Station—Named the J. M. Scruggs.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (June 25, 1931).¹ The old *Water Valley Progress* of the seventies was the only country newspaper I ever knew that had its own staff cartoonist—the proprietor, Mr. Brown, whose first name I have forgotten.

I have taken for my story this week local transportation as I remember it in my earlier years.

When Holly Springs built a street railway, about 1874, it high-hatted the neighboring towns scandalously.

It had but one passenger car drawn by a big mule, with Sam West for driver, and had been named the J. M. Scruggs.

Mr. Scruggs, or Jim Scruggs, as his intimates knew him, was a jovial popular lawyer, with a good sense of humor, and was a law partner of Col. H. W. Walter.

The cartoons of Mr. Brown of *The Progress* were clever, though crude in workmanship as he did his own carving, and they were printed directly from blocks of wood.

This cartoon was entitled "J. M. Scruggs on Wheels," and showed that genial gentleman seated on a little flat car, pulling the bell cord over a gaunt mule.²

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² Writing a generation after the street railway passed into history, Inez Berryhill Adams told of her arrival in the city after a journey in 1907 from McKenzie, Tenn., to Holly Springs, via Jackson, Tenn., and the Illinois Central Railroad. She was to enter Mississippi Synodical College, and live with her uncle and aunt, the Rev. and Mrs. C. Z. Berryhill, until graduation in the Class of 1912. By her account, "When the train finally pulled into the Holly Springs station, a

The western terminus of the line was at the northwest corner of the square for the passenger car, and at the northeast corner there was a turn-table with spur track, for freight cars, to the southeast corner of the square.

The line continued east on College to the Freeman corner, north on Walthall to John E. Anderson's corner, where it ran east behind the McDowell and Dean (or Topp then) places to the pottery and south behind the I. C. Road freight house.³

ALSO CONDUCTED HOTEL

The company also constructed the old depot hotel, which had survived the war, and had Dr. Christian to manage it. The rear north wing of the present hotel was part of the old one.

A ten-cent fare for passengers was charged. Freight was hauled on flat cars drawn by one mule sometimes two in tandem. Railroad rails were used laid on crossties for the track, and made an awful jolt for vehicles crossing them.

carriage was waiting for me. Uncle Charles had hired a man to meet me and bring me to the manse, the home of the Presbyterian minister. As the horse trotted noisily along the gravel streets, I caught a first glimpse of the town. It was obviously larger than McKenzie, with lots of antebellum homes and a courthouse in the town square. Tall magnolia trees lined the streets, and a warm, sweet smell filled the evening air. My new family was waiting on the front porch when our carriage arrived, and little Margaret ran out to greet me." *The Class of 1912* (Lafayette, Calif.: Thomas-Berryhill Press, 1995): 23-24.

³ This small brick building, painted gray and located immediately to the north of the passenger station on Bethlehem Street, dates from before the Civil War, and houses offices of a short line railroad which has reclaimed the historic Mississippi Central name. It is clearly visible in Alexander Simplot's drawing of the depot for *Harper's Magazine* (January 13, 1863). See photo in *Southern Tapestry*, 65.

The line didn't pay and in a few years was abandoned and the tracks torn up. For some reason the crossties on the north side of the square were covered with earth instead of taken up, and were clearly marked by frost in winter.¹

As I remember, Maj. George M. Govan, Col. F. A Lucas and R. E. Taylor were the prime movers in the enterprise. Maj. Belton Mickle surveyed the line.

The most colorful thing in local transportation, prior to the streetcar, was Jim House's big six-horse bus,² with Sam West on the boot and Jim Ballard, the conductor swinging on behind; it would hold forty or fifty passengers. For his livery stable and omnibus Mr. House always kept good horses, that had to be held in rather than driven.³

The northbound passenger train passed here at 3 o'clock in the morning and people had to go

¹ In the winter of 1999, the *South Reporter* noted that workers repairing fallen masonry at the back of the old Merchants & Farmers Bank had discovered remnants of the old street railway.

² Almost from the beginning, a public conveyance of one sort or another had been operated from the depot to the town square almost a mile away. In August 1858, Emma Finley wrote about riding a "bus"—probably a horse-drawn coach, as she and her friends began a recreational outing to Red Sulphur Springs in Hardaman County, Tennessee. "We took supper with Mrs. Caruthers & about 9 1/2 o'clock the Bus stopped at the door & found Dr. Litch, Mollie, Maggie, Mr. Jim Fant, O. Lumpkin, & John L. Hudson (inside).- We three hopped in & at Dr. Smith's added Laura, Miss Farrar, Charlie & Mr. Farrar to the party. Out we went to the depot—the lightning flashing almost every instant- and the thunder rolling rapidly. Sam had hunted up our trunks & was awaiting us." After the trip, she recorded of the exuberant young people that, "All that could pushed into the omnibus - & oh! tell it not in Gath- we went through the streets of the city of Holly Springs 'passing round the bottle!'-- fact. Ladies & Gentlemen (all of our crowd, & those who were not gazed in astonishment, raised the bottle to their lips. I will have you to guess what the passers by thought. I reckon though I should explain- for fear of someone's most righteous judgment- that it was only some strawberry cordial which had been forgotten by the boys as we went on. After kissing the last 'Goodbye' Mollie & Cousin John L. left us; then the Smiths & Farrars & then we were put off at Mrs. Caruthers-- and thus & thus----- we sigh but it comes no more." *Our Pen Is Time*, 8,17-18.

³ The streetcar line was a victim of the yellow fever epidemic. Hamilton, 46; see *It Happened Here*, 28.

to Memphis by Grand Junction then. The long drawn-out cry in the night of "railroad" usually waked up the neighbors. In river towns it would be "steamboat."⁴

Mud would often be so deep in winter on Depot Street that the big bus would have to detour out on Salem to reach the depot.⁵

That was a picturesque section of uptown life from the post office to the Travelers' Inn—then the Schuyler House—in the sixties and early seventies, and continued more or less so until 1916 when *The South* office was moved to the present location, and the automobile supplanted the horse.⁶

⁴ Schedules constantly changed, and not always for the better. The *Traveler's Official Railway Guide of the United States and Canada* for June 1868 gives the following timetable for travel between Holly Springs and Memphis. Departing Holly Springs 1:40 p.m., arriving in Grand Junction at 3:15. Departing Grand Junction on the Memphis & Charleston, the train left at 3:30 p.m., arriving Memphis at 6:20. Returning, the train left Memphis at 12:40 a.m., arriving at Grand Junction at 3:30 a.m., not departing until 3:25 p.m., then arriving in Holly Springs at 5:20!

⁵ Chesley Smith recalled that most of the streets in Holly Springs were not paved until she was grown, and not all of them even then. "I was a child when the first half of the square, the outer half, was paved and, also, Depot Street, now called Van Dorn...Anyway, I can remember getting stuck in the mud going to or from the depot in a hack on Depot Street where Chesterman Street now intersects Van Dorn. She also recalled riding down Buchanan Hill [out South Craft Street, just below its intersection with the present Stafford Avenue.] "Once down safely, we still didn't know whether we could get back up the steep hill, where the road had deep ruts that zigzagged back and forth, top to bottom. The only way to make it was to stay in the ruts. No vehicle could come up while one was going down, but there was little danger of that happening because the road was seldom used....The hill has become such a gentle paved slope that now you aren't even conscious of going up or down." The Board of Aldermen voted funds in 1915 to pave Church or Depot Street, as it was then called—leading from the square to the railroad station. Next, the streets within the square were paved. Stop signs—the first in the county—were added at the entrances to the square about 1920. Chesley Smith remembered that they were made of metal about twelve inches by six inches, "and were attached to the street by strong springs so that as a car ran over one, it would pop right back up." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 91.

⁶ The first automobile passed through Marshall County in 1901 on a trip from Memphis to Oxford. The journey took six hours. *Southern Tapestry*, 109.

There was much more Bohemianism in life then, and the man-about-town type, and this life surged around that section day and night. *The South* office and Gray & Dunn's saloon occupied part of the post office site, Jim House's stable on the Holly Springs Auto Co. site¹ and the Schyler House. Jim House, Bayliss Gray and Bill Dunn moved to Jackson, Tenn., in 1874.

POPULAR TRANSFER MAN

Walter Roberts was the most popular transfer man I have known here; competitors would start up with better teams and finer hacks, but there was "nothin' doin'." Drummers rode with and pulled for him almost to a man.

A friend overheard a group of drummers in the lobby of the old Peabody Hotel, Memphis, discussing him. "If you ever go to Holly Springs," said one, "ride with Walter Roberts. I have never stopped there, myself, but once when I had my mail sent there, intending to stop, Walter Roberts persuaded the conductor to hold the train until he could send to the post office, nearly a mile away and get it."

Dogs sometimes develop a habit of following a public vehicle, though they may not belong. When Bob Dancy lived across from the Presbyterian Church, he owned a bulldog and a collie that would follow the express wagon, then horse-drawn. Regularly when the next train was due, they would trot around to the express office.

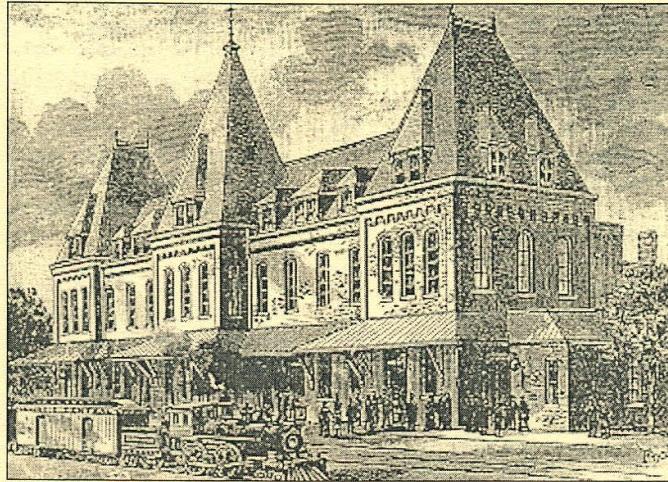
When my brothers Minor and Mercer Mickle, were engineers in levee work on the Mississippi River, there was a dog that belonged to nobody and would follow any wagon he saw moving out. They made an overland trip to East Mississippi and the dog followed. Passing through a flat flooded county for several days, the poor fellow would climb out of the water and sit on a stump all night.

A neighbor owned some hound puppies that delighted to sit around and yelp at the big dog. He would lop off some distance and lie down, but the little rascals would hit his trail and he would have to go over it all again.

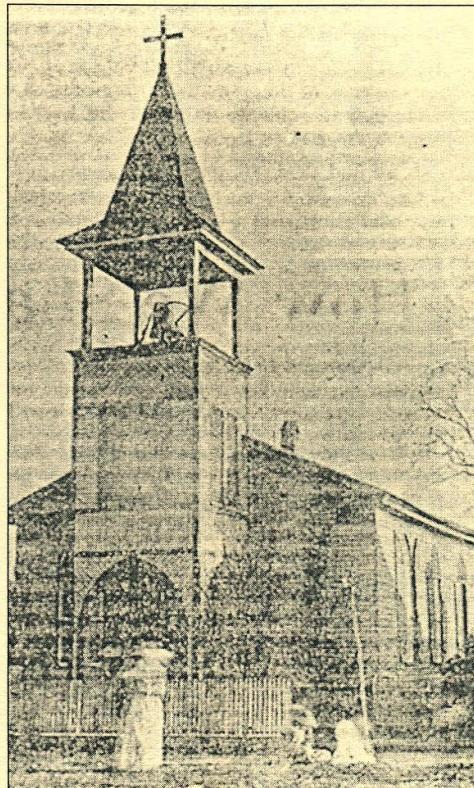
He was a scrapper and had had an ear broken, which hung over his eye like the broad-

brimmed hat on a stage "vielyon," and he would stalk up to the conflict with long slow stage strides.

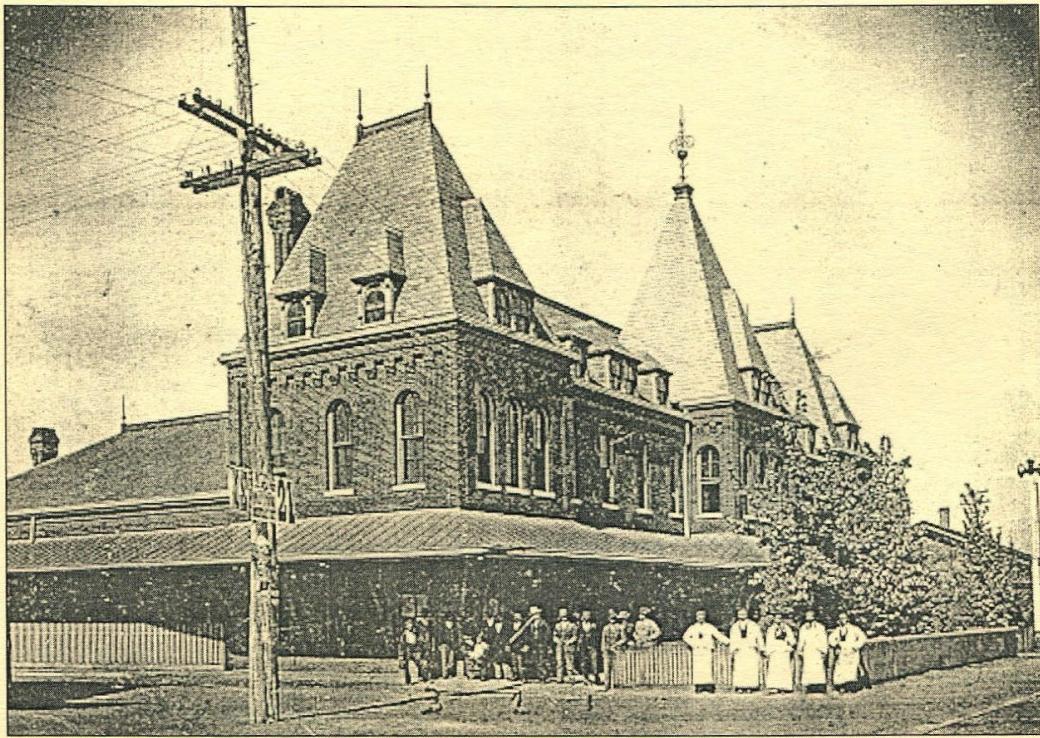
¹ On Memphis Street just north of the old post office.



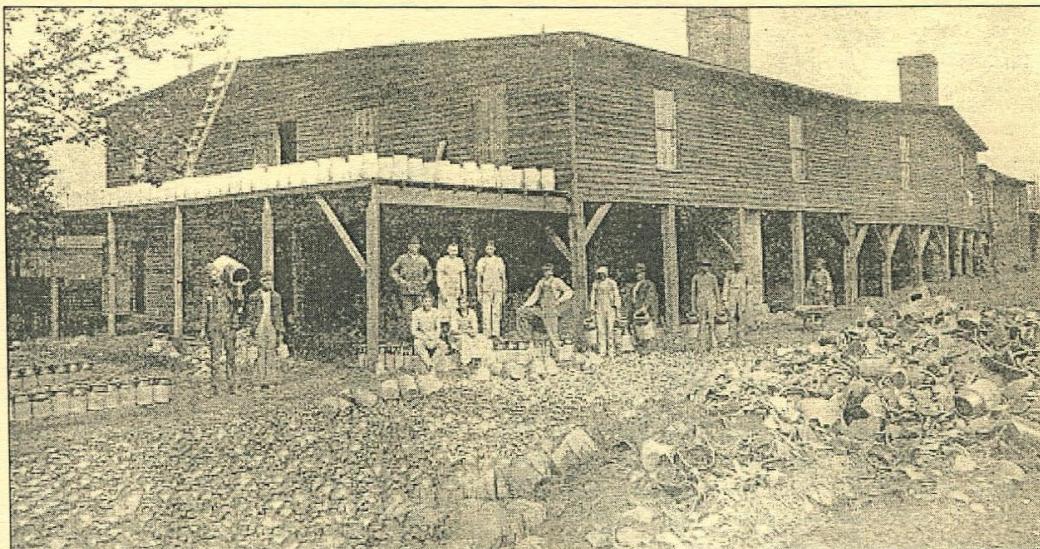
Old etching of the Holly Springs depot, showing a portion (bottom right) that was incorporated into the new structure in 1886. Original source unknown.
Copy from Alan R. Lind, From the Lakes to the Gulf:
The Illinois Central Railroad Story.



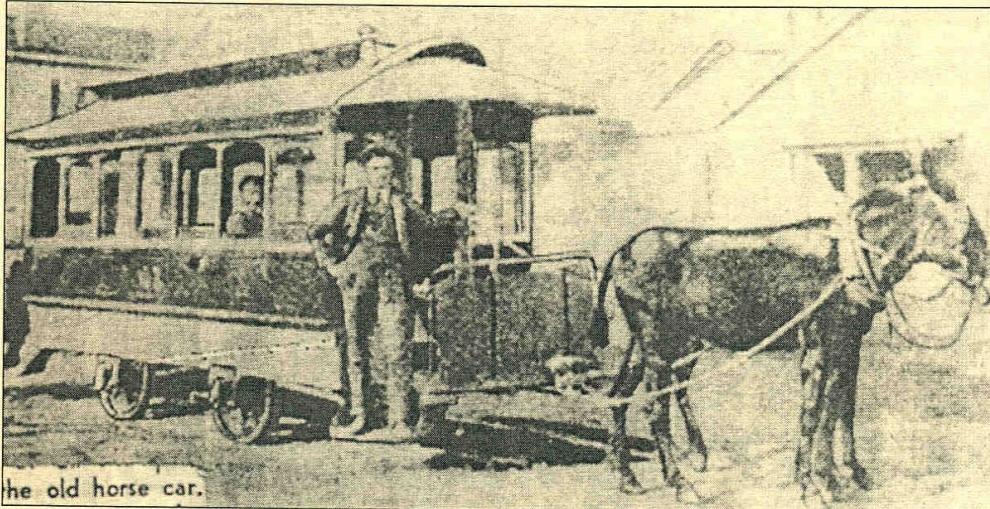
1895 view of Old St. Joseph's Church.
Courtesy of The Holly Springs South Reporter.



Waiters and depot staff line up in front the glory years passenger train operations.
Photo from the collection of Mrs. R. L. Wyatt.



Old Pottery Manufacturing Plant, better known as the "Jug Factory."
Photo from the Marshall County Historical Museum.



Horse drawn bus that operated between the depot and the square.
Chesley Smith collection.

271. MISSISSIPPI CENTRAL RAILWAY.

**1868 Schedule of the Mississippi Central Railroad.
The Traveler's Official Railway Guide.**

Chapter VIII. Pioneer Families.

1.

PIONEER FAMILIES OF MARSHALL COUNTY: THE ALEXANDERS.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (July 30, 1931).¹ Mrs. Dora Alexander Tyson is the only living member of the Alexander family of five sons and five daughters, children of Robert Burrell Alexander, one of the earliest pioneers of what is now Marshall County.

Born and reared near Holly Springs and a resident here for forty-three years, she is now, after seventy-seven years of service for God and man, enjoying in the autumn of life the love and esteem of all who know her. Her mind as bright as ever, she is still interested in all that goes on.

John E. Alexander and wife and their son, Robert Burrell Alexander (Mrs. Tyson's father) an only child, and his wife came from Maury County, Tenn., near Columbia, before this county was organized or Holly Springs was founded. They bought an extensive tract of land south of the city.² The Alexanders were of English and Scotch ancestry.

The older Alexander had a dread of tornadoes and built his home in the valley. The house still stands on a half section bought by the late Egbert R. Jones in 1895 and is used as a tenant house.³

Robert Alexander built on the hill, commanding a view of the city—it was the subject of my story on August 28, 1930.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² Robert Burrell Alexander named his plantation "Happy Hill." Dr. and Mrs. Robert Emmon Tyson, of Holly Springs, have recently built a home just beyond the city's southern edge, near the site of Robert B. Alexander's pioneer house.

³ See information and photo in *Southern Tapestries*, 17-18, 30.

The Alexanders (Mrs. Tyson's family) are hereditary Methodists, and they or their descendants have rarely strayed from that fold. Her father, R. B. Alexander was the pillar of the Methodist Church here both spiritually and financially, contributing largely to the purchase of the lot and erection of the [present] building.

Her maternal grandfather, Edmund Taylor, had built Taylor's Chapel, a brick structure, in Fayette County, Tenn., near Somerville, which gave the name to the village, and in which regular services are still held.

It may be well to note here that the Alexander families of Holly Springs and of Chulahoma, both pioneer families, are not related.

Mrs. Robert B. Alexander died a few years after they came, and some years later Mr. Alexander married Miss Sarah Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor of Taylor's Chapel, Tenn. He died June 31, 1890, and she died in 1891.

There were five daughters and five sons of this union: Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson of Memphis, Mrs. Loulie Ingram of Byhalia, Miss Thea of Holly Springs, Dr. Jack Edmund of Missouri, Robert B. of Holly Springs, Joseph Venable and Howell Taylor Alexander of Taylor's Chapel, Tenn., William James of Phillips County, Ark., Mrs. Dora Tyson of Holly Springs and Mrs. Mamie Titus of Memphis.

Miss Elizabeth married the Rev. W. C. Johnson, a Methodist minister of Nashville. He served as chaplain in the Confederate army, while his family lived with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Alexander, during the war. The Johnsons moved to Memphis in the fall of 1865, when he was editor of *The Western Methodist*.

Later the paper was moved to Little Rock, where he died.

Mrs. Johnson returned to Memphis and bought the home they had lived in, and it was her home until her death a few years ago. She retained her mental and physical vigor almost to the end. Moving to Memphis when it was a small city and seeing it grow, she possessed a wonderful knowledge of people and events in both Memphis and Holly Springs.

Surviving children are Mrs. Louise Young of Memphis, Mrs. Edmund Taylor of Greenville, Miss., Miss Mary Ada Barbee of Biloxi, Miss., Miss Willie Crockett Johnson of Memphis, and a son, Smith Johnson of Arkansas.

Miss Loulie Alexander married T. Coke Ingram of Byhalia, and surviving children are: Thomas C. Ingram of Byhalia, Mrs. Dora Taylor of Taylor's Chapel, Tenn., Miss Essie Ingram of Ingram's Mill, Mrs. Tommie Boyd McCrary of Senatobia, Mrs. Bessie Stringer of Fordyce, Ark., Joe Ingram of Byhalia.

Joseph Alexander of Taylor's Chapel married Miss Lola Taylor of Taylor's Chapel, and their children are Miss Sue Taylor of Taylor's Chapel, Sallie, who married Mr. Reaves of Bolivar, Tenn., Mrs. John (Charles) Campbell of Memphis; Robert Alexander of Taylor's Chapel (married a Miss Green).

Howell Taylor Alexander left a daughter, Miss May Harrison Taylor.

William James Alexander of Arkansas married Miss Louise Edmondson of Phillips County, Ark., who was a near relative of Mrs. Brodie Strachan Crump, who died here in 1870, and who was Miss Helen Edmondson. Mrs. Alexander is still living and has a daughter, Mrs. Will Alexander Tucker.

Miss Dora Alexander married Lieutenant James O. Tyson of Byhalia (now deceased). All of their children are living: Mrs. Kate Kelley, widow of Thomas H. Kelley; Miss Lucy Tyson; Edward T. Tyson who married Miss Ann Martin Greene—they live at the old Alexander home and have a daughter and two sons, Sarah Madison, Edmund Taylor, Jr., and Robert Emmon. Robert A. Tyson who married Miss Mary Burton; James O., Joe V. Tyson and Fred Tyson, who married Miss Isabel Hollingsworth of

Jackson, Miss., Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tyson moved to Jackson about two years ago. The others live in Holly Springs.

Miss Mamie, youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Alexander married W. S. Titus of Memphis. They are survived by their only child, a son, Frazier Titus of Memphis.

Mrs. Dora Tyson bought the brick cottage on Gholson Avenue and South Market and started with a few boarders over forty years ago. Business has increased and she built a two-story frame house, with the cottage as an annex and named it the Tyson Hotel.¹

¹ A photo of the Tyson Hotel, where Mr. Mickle lived, may be seen in Miller-Smith, 56. The two-story Victorian house was demolished in the 1960s.

2.

PIONEER FAMILIES OF MARSHALL COUNTY: COL. PETER LUCAS.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (November 5, 1931).¹ One of the most substantial of the antebellum citizens of Holly Springs, financial and otherwise, was Peter Walker Lucas, who came here from Memphis in 1840, and the family has been prominently identified with this city ever since.

He fought with Gen. Andrew Jackson at the battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812, and was promoted on the field for gallantry.

He was born February 11, 1796, in Fauquier County, Virginia, and died in 1870 at the home of his son-in-law, Judge J. W. Clapp, in Memphis. His grave is in Hill Crest Cemetery.

In his youth he and his widowed mother moved to Selmer, Tenn., where he studied law. Here he married Clementina Donoho, October 30, 1817. He moved to Memphis in 1834 and practiced law. But he excelled in finance and was elected president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank.

After his removal to Holly Springs in 1840, on account of health,² he invested largely in lands, and practiced his profession. He was elected president of the Northern Bank of Mississippi, which was located in what is now Staf-ford's Café, on the southwest corner of the square.

Judge Mills was afterwards president of this bank, moving here from New Orleans. His beautiful suburban residence was on the site of M. I. College.³ He was uncle of Mrs. Robert and David McDowell.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² As late as the 1930s, well after the true cause of malarial fevers was known, Holly Springs was promoted as a healthier place because of the high ground on which it stood.

³ The campus of Mississippi Industrial College, located on North Memphis Street, which traces its history to 1903, when Bishop Elias Cottrell of the Colored (now Christian) Methodist Episcopal Church an-

A word about the Lucas home. It was constructed when there was a wealth of fine timber in Marshall County and not a splinter of "sap" went into it. The joists were hewn out of solid logs, mortised and fastened with oaken pegs. I have heard carpenters say that it was a job to remodel one of these old houses, they were so solidly constructed.

Col. Peter Lucas lived on Memphis Street, in the house subsequently occupied by his son, Col. F. A. Lucas and probably had it built. It is owned and until the fire Monday, October 19, was occupied by Sam Sigman as his residence.

Col. Lucas left one of the largest estates in the history of Marshall County. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and many of his descendants continued in that branch of the faith.

His sons were: Fielding Augustine Lucas,⁴ who died in 1892; Charles, died in boyhood; George Jennings Lucas, died in 1892. Daughters, Evalina Donoho, who married Judge J. W. Clapp; Sarah, died in childhood; Pamela Brooks, who married Dr. J. D. M. Litchfield, and Henrietta married Calvin Smith.

Col. Fielding Lucas's first wife was Miss Sallie Walker, and their home was on the site of the old priest's house on Salem Avenue. She died March 14, 1858. Their sons, Robert Fielding and Peter Walker, gave their lives for the Confederacy, Robert in battle and Peter from tuberculosis contracted in the army.

His second wife was Miss Ella Bracken, and their daughter, Daisy, married an ex-naval offi-

nounced the donation of 120 acres by the citizens of Holly Springs. The campus has been placed on the register of the "Ten Most Endangered Historic Landmarks," a list maintained by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. See information and photos in *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 46-47; *Written in the Bricks*, 96-98; *Southern Tapestry*, 108, 124-25, 160.

⁴ President of the Northern Bank of Mississippi, Hamilton 132.

cer, Benjamin Wright, who re-entered the navy for the Spanish-American War; he was a son of Gen. Marcus J. Wright of Memphis.

Col. and Mrs. Fielding Lucas re-opened the old Peter Lucas home on Memphis Street. This was the first branch of the family that I became acquainted with. They kept open house and it was a social center for the young people of the town. Besides the young daughter and Mrs. Lucas' sisters, Misses Ida and Fannie Bracken, Col. Lucas' nieces from Memphis were frequent visitors.

Mrs. Lucas was a handsome, charming woman, possessed a wonderful voice and great talent as an amateur actress. No woman of her period gave more of her time and talent to her church and community than she. She sang in Christ Church choir when I was a boy, and remained an active member up to the Sunday before she was taken with her last illness a few years ago.

Evalina Donoho Lucas, daughter of Col. Peter Lucas, married Judge J. W. Clapp, able member of the Holly Springs bar in ante-bellum days. His old office still stands, in the rear of *The South Reporter* office, but fronting on South Center Street.¹

Judge Clapp built the beautiful brick colonial home on Salem Avenue, now the home of the Lester Fants. There were about thirty acres in the tract, but most of it has been sold off. He moved to Memphis in 1866.

Lucas Clapp, son of Judge and Mrs. J. W. Clapp, was the first mayor Holly Springs contributed to Memphis, Congressman Edward Hull Crump being the second. Both were able men. Lucas Clapp died several years ago.

Other children of Judge and Mrs. Clapp were Clementina (died 1912), married Hiram McCrosky, cousin of Harvey McCrosky of Holly Springs—their daughter Mary, who died a few months ago, visited here often and was popular.

Watkins Clapp, who married Miss Ellen Kennedy of Clarksville, Tenn.

¹ Judge Clapp's office stood where the present *South Reporter* office is now located. In Mr. Mickle's day, the newspaper office was in the building where the Collier Carlton Law Office is now.

Eva Clapp, who married Dr. A. M. West, son of Gen. A. M. West of Holly Springs (Dr. West died in Memphis (1916)—A. Madden West, Methodist minister, died 1919. Evalyn, who married H. A. White of Memphis; Jerry, now of Bedford, Pa.

Laura Clapp, who married Dr. John Taylor of Jackson, Tenn., died in 1924 in Jackson and was buried there.

Olie Belle Clapp, who married Thomas Boggs of Memphis, who died in Baltimore. She married John L. Steel in Washington, D. C., in 1921, and he died in 1927. She lives in Bedford, Pa. She did wonderful work in the World War—head of a large Red Cross chapter in Baltimore, later speaking in Liberty Loan sale and served in U. S. Naval intelligence March 1918-1920. Has served on National Democratic Campaign Committee.

Henrietta Lucas married Calvin T. Smith, and lived in the Delta until after Mr. Smith's death, when she and her family moved to Holly Springs.

Their children: Peter Walker Smith, who lives near Nesbit in DeSoto County; Louie B. Smith, who was the belle of her time; and Conley T. Smith; both died many years ago.

Louie B. Smith married Ben H. William son, and of this union there was one son, Ben H. Jr., who lives in Jacksonville, Fla.; and four daughters, Etta, eldest and only one living, the widow of Dr. Robert A. Seale, lives here; Louise, who married Louis A. Anderson, now of Nashville; Dorothy, who died unmarried, and Elma, who died in childhood.

Dr. and Mrs. Seale had four children: Louise, who married Walker Humphreys; Robert A., who married Olivia Jones; Teresa who married James Clinton Totten, Jr., and William, who is unmarried. Mr. and Mrs. Totten have a son, J. C., III.

3.

PIONEER FAMILIES OF MARSHALL COUNTY: WILLIAM JONES.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (November 12, 1931).¹ The descendants of William Jones, who came from Georgia to Marshall County in 1839, have prominent place in the history of Marshall County and Holly Springs, a record of substantial citizenship.

The original ancestor, Capt. Roger Jones of Stepney, London and Wales, an officer in the army of Charles II of England, came to Virginia with his friend, Lord Culpepper, in 1660.

His grandson, Thomas Jones, went to North Carolina with his father and settled near Edenton. He was an eminent jurist, a member of the first provincial congress averse to royal authority and wrote the first constitution of North Carolina in 1776.

Thomas Jones' son, William, was born in North Carolina in 1783, and moved with his father to Morgan County, Ga., and in 1810 was married in Morgan County to Phalba Hutchens, and here his family of six children was born.

They were: Rufus, who married Martha Alston Reese; Jasper, who was married three times, Julia Alston (1842), Emma Stewart (1857), Jane Kirby (1875); Matilda, who married Capt. Albert Q. Withers; Malsherbes, who married E. Suggs; Lucius, unmarried; Elizabeth, who married Col. David D. Sanderson.

CAME HERE IN 1839

William Jones with his family moved to Marshall County, Miss., in 1839 and settled near Tallaloosa, in the neighborhood of the present day hamlet of Marianna.²

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² A small farming community twelve miles southwest of Holly Springs, settled in 1875 by Martin Greene and Sam Mimms. The names of their wives Mary Mimms and Anna Greene, were combined to form the name Marianna.

Tallaloosa, eight or ten miles southwest of Holly Springs, was a strong competitor with Holly Springs and Chulahoma for the county seat, but dwindled away before the Civil War. Chimneys were standing there as late as 1890.³

In and around it was a fine citizenship: the Joneses, Nunnallys, Echols, Grovers, Woods, McClatchys, Hursts, John Williams, McRavens and Wootens.

It was a flourishing village with a church with a weekly service⁴ and several brick stores in 1839 when William Jones with his family came from Georgia and bought a large tract of land from the Indians and settled a large plantation on each of his four sons and two daughters.

"Prospect Hill," the plantation of Rufus Jones, remains in the possession of his son Egbert's family today; and that of Jasper Jones is owned by the heirs of his daughter, the late Mrs. H. S. Dancy.

After his death in 1856 Rufus Jones' widow moved to Holly Springs. The children of Rufus Jones were Mrs. Frances Shuford, deceased, whose husband, Dr. Franklin Brevard Shuford (deceased) was a physician here and who had charge of Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond

³ Tallaloosa, deriving from an Indian name meaning "Black Rock," was located near Pigeon Roost Creek, along which the early missionaries to the Indians had built a mission station and school in 1825. The village was a polling place in the county's first election and had a post office from 1846 to 1867. *Southern Tapestry*, 25-26.

⁴ Due to the shortage of preachers, many rural churches down to the present day do not have services every Sunday. Usually ministers are shared with other congregations on an alternating scheme, with one church engaging the minister for the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays, and the other on the 2nd and 4th. The denominational church that boasted services every Sunday was either very prosperous, or more often, opened its doors to preachers of more than one communion.

during most of the Civil War.¹ Their children were Rufus Shuford of Holly Springs, Augusta Shuford of New York, Frances Shuford Huntington of Cincinnati, deceased, and Franklin Shuford of Birmingham.²

MARRIED MARGARET MASON

William A Jones, married Margaret Mason, daughter of William F. Mason of Holly Springs. They had three sons and a daughter: Mason, William A. Jr., Carrington, and Miss Reese Jones, all of whom now live in Memphis.³

Phalba (usually called Phalla) Jones married John Mayer, both deceased, and left no children.

Egbert R. Jones, deceased, married Elizabeth Howard Blanton of Farmville, Va. They had three sons and a daughter: Egbert R. of Ceres, Calif., Howard T. of Holly Springs, Francis Crawford of Memphis, and Mrs. Clara Leigh Aldrich of Michigan City, Miss.

Jasper Jones, married Julia Alston in 1842. Their son Hannibal died unmarried, their daughter, Mary Jane, married Henry S. Dancy of Holly Springs. Jasper Jones married his second wife, Emma Stewart in 1851. They had two daughters, Anna and Lizzie, and sons, but I cannot learn the number or names. Mr. Jones married his third

¹ This was a huge Confederate military hospital that opened in 1862. Part of it is preserved as part of the national military park there.

² In 1858-1859, Mrs. Jones built the house to-day known as the "Jones-Shuford-Finley Place" that stands at 285 East Falconer Avenue across from the Holly Springs High School. The historic mansion presently serves as the state office of the National Audubon Society.

³ William F. Mason was an early settler, coming to Holly Springs in 1837. He was born in 1819 and came in 1825 from Baltimore to Pulaski, Tennessee. In 1840, he built the house now called Hamilton Place, at the foot of South Memphis Street, which was later the home of his son Carrington Mason. In 1853, he built the house which stands at what is now 305 South Craft Street, to-day known as "The Magnolias." Mason's daughter Maggie and her husband William A. Jones made their home in the latter house, which incorporates a Gothic window in the second floor central hall. The house on Craft Street was later owned by the R. L. Tuckers. It was until recently the home of Mrs. Everett Slayden Hamilton, 132; see information and photos in "Some Historic Homes of Mississippi," 346-47; *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 161, *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 94; *It Happened Here*, 48-49; Miller-Smith, 37.

wife, Jane Kirby, in 1875, they had no children. She was sister of the late Ed Kirby.

Matilda Jones, oldest daughter of William Jones, married Capt. Albert Q. Withers, son of Sterling Withers, who lived in the Victoria neighborhood. They had three sons and five daughters: Thaddeus (who died in childhood), Emile Q., William L. (Buck), Mary, Elizabeth, Mrs. Lulie Withers Cannon (all of who are dead), Mrs. Sterling Withers Dockery and Mrs. Cora Withers Hall, both of Memphis.

Lucius, youngest son of William Jones, died unmarried.

MOVED TO TEXAS

Elizabeth, the youngest daughter, married Col. David Sanderson. They lived near Mariana, but moved to Texas⁴ in the early eighties and bought a large tract of land near Whitney, where their descendants now live. I have been unable to learn their names.

I am indebted to Mrs. Egbert Jones of "Box Hill" for much of the data in regard to the Jones Family.⁵

John Marshall Thompson (col.) helped me with some names in the Withers family. His forbears belonged to Withers' family and he owns the eighty acres on which stood the Sterling Withers home and on which is located the family burying ground in which is the Sterling Withers' grave. The Victoria gin is located in the corner of the place.

I have told this story of Sterling Withers before, but in connection with the present story and

⁴ Mr. Mickle's articles are full of references to those who moved to Texas. It was a typical migration pattern that brought settlers (over the course of generations) from Virginia to the Carolinas, to Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia, then to Mississippi, and finally to points further west.

⁵ The Jones home at 335 West Chulahoma Avenue, known as "Box Hill," dates from the earliest days of the town and was occupied from 1850 to 1891 by James Sims, a prominent townsmen. Through the years this house has been remodeled and enlarged many times, and in the 1920s there was a fire. When the damage was repaired, the roof balustrade and the porte-cochere—elements of Georgian Revival style—popular at the time, were added. "Box Hill" is presently the home of Mrs. Jane Condrey Jones.

as illustrating the staunch integrity of the early settlers it will bear repeating.

Sterling Withers came from Virginia to buy land and make his home in Marshall County. He rode with Dr. T. J. Malone, whom I remember quite well,¹ and finally bought a large tract near Victoria.

Note: Victoria was founded by the late Capt. George M. Buchanan on his land in the mid-eighties, after the coming of the railroad, and named after his first wife, Victoria Nunnally Buchanan.²

¹ Dr. Malone studied medicine but never practiced. He moved to a location south of Waterford in 1835, serving in the legislature (1845-1852). He was married to Lucy Alderson, widow of James C. Alderson, and moved to Holly Springs. He was a trustee of Rust University. He held interest in the Mississippi Central Railroad and other business enterprises. Hamilton, 132; *Southern Tapestry*, 106. Malone endowed Franklin Female College, which prompted the renaming of that institution as Malone College.

² George M. Buchanan (1838-1926), Kentucky native and Confederate captain, had served in Missouri with Henry C. Myers, son-in-law of Col. Harvey W. Walter. He was brought to Holly Springs after being wounded in the Battle of Shiloh. One of his nurses was Miss Victoria Nunnally, whom he married. After the war, Buchanan allied with the Republican Party, much to the displeasure of those who saw loyalty to the Democrats as the best means of Southern resistance to Federal reconstruction policy. He was appointed sheriff in 1870, serving until 1875, when a Democrat was elected. Later, he was U. S. Marshal for North Mississippi. Unlike many white Republicans in the county, Buchanan never allied with the Democrats after Reconstruction. Buchanan became a large landowner in the countryside northwest of Holly Springs, necessitating the establishment of the station now known as Victoria, when the Kansas City, Memphis & Birmingham Railway began operations through the vicinity in 1885. The crossroads community is located thirteen miles northwest of Holly Springs on U. S. Highway 78. The Buchanans had four children. Their youngest, a son, was killed when he climbed too near the fireplace and his clothing caught fire. The three girls all died in the space of a week during the yellow fever epidemic of 1878. Victoria Buchanan died, it was said, of a broken heart. Later Captain Buchanan married his first wife's niece, Susie Dean, by whom he had two children—Mayor George M. Buchanan and Victoria Buchanan. Buchanan built the house belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Jakey Hurdle, which still stands at 115 West Chulahoma Avenue, at the corner of South Memphis Street—its appearance much different after a fire destroyed the second story. It was a prefabricated house—the first the town had ever seen—assembled

After deciding on the land, Sterling Withers got his saddlebags from a corner of the room, where they had been thrown several weeks before, and paid Dr. Malone.

Dr. Malone greeted him one day in Holly Springs with: "Sterling Withers, do you know that ten years ago you bought a tract of land from me, and you haven't got a scratch of a pen to show for it?" He did. "Then come over to the courthouse and let me write you a deed."

from parts shipped from Battle Creek, Michigan. See William C. Harris, *The Day of the Carpetbagger: Republican Reconstruction in Mississippi* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1979): 715-16; *Mississippi: Sketches*, 3:94; "Reconstruction in Marshall County," 165; Hamilton, 41.

4.

PIONEER FAMILIES OF MARSHALL COUNTY: GENERAL A. M. WEST.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (December 3, 1931).¹ General A. M. West, who held a commission in the Confederate Army and was Brigadier General in the State troops of Mississippi during the Civil War, came to Holly Springs shortly after the war from Holmes County, Mississippi. He was born in Alabama at the old homestead called Anniston, and married Miss Carolyne Olivia Glover.

Of this union was born Dr. Alston Madden West, who married the daughter of Judge Jeremiah W. Clapp, who was a member of the Confederate Congress; their children were Olivia West, who became the bride of Capt. W. T. McCarty, a member of General Lee's staff, who was probate judge at Emporia, Kansas, for 20 years; Frederick Edgar West,² who married a granddaughter of the famed Greenwood LeFlore; Sydney Yancey West, who was affianced to Miss Jennie Lamar, a daughter of Honorable L. Q. C. Lamar, who died in his senior year at the University of Mississippi.

Benjamin Glover West, who married Miss Mary Brodie Crump, a member of the Crump families of Holly Springs and Memphis; Charles Floyd West, who married Miss Laura Carson, a daughter of Dr. Carson of Durant; and Carrie West, who married L. A. Smith, the son of Colonel Lem Smith of Memphis and Holly Springs, and who was the father, therefore, of L. A. Smith, Sr., present member of the bar at Holly Springs.

PRESIDENT OF RAILROAD

General West moved to Holly Springs as President of the Mississippi Central Railroad Company, which in the 80's was succeeded by the Illinois Central Railroad Company, after General West, assisted by a Board of Directors

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² See photo of the Edgar West house, Miller-Smith, 38.

composed of Colonel Sam Tate, Capt. A. McConnonico, and General Miller of Bolivar, Tenn., and others, had rebuilt the roadbed, and had gotten the rolling stock in order, the same having been practically demolished during the four years' war.³

General West was elected to the U. S. Congress during the reconstruction days but when he presented his credentials the partisan Congress at Washington denied him recognition and seated a negro in his stead. General West was elector at large and stumped the State of Mississippi on behalf of the ticket of Tilden and Hendrix.⁴ Those were terribly strenuous and dangerous times and General West received numerous unpleasant letters, threatening his life because he was aiding to the white Democrats of Mississippi to regain the State from the hands of the carpetbaggers and negroes, but at his own expense he gave all his time until the task was completed.

He also ran for Governor of Mississippi but was defeated by Governor Pettus, and he served Marshall County in the Legislature both as a Representative and as a Senator for a long number of years.

General West was president of the West Manufacturing Company at Holly Springs, a factory which stood between the I. C. and Frisco railroad tracks and manufactured wagons.⁵ He was a man

³ See R. Milton Winter, "The Mississippi Central and the Illinois Central," *The Green Diamond: Magazine of the Illinois Central Railroad Historical Society*.

⁴ This was the hotly contested election of 1874, which was decided by the House of Representatives. Tilden and Hendrix were the nominees for president and vice-president of the Democratic Party. In the wrangling that followed the election, Rutherford B. Hayes, a Republican was elected in the House, in part due to a promise to end Reconstruction in the South.

⁵ The Marshall County centennial publication, *One Hundred Years*, recalled that "a wagon factory was another project that time, circumstances, and needs produced. Fine mechanics made splendid vehi-

of large property interest and took an intense interest in all public affairs.

CANDIDATE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

A unique distinction which General West had brought to Mississippi and Holly Springs, and strange to relate one which is very generally overlooked by Mississippians and historians of Mississippi, is that he is the only son of Mississippi who was ever nominated by a national political party for the office of either President or Vice-President of the United States.¹

General West was nominated by both the Greenbacks and the Anti-Monopoly parties as the candidate for the office of Vice-President of the United States in 1884, and made the campaign delivering speeches all over the United States on behalf of his political party.

When the famous centennial exposition was held in Philadelphia, General West appeared on behalf of the State of Mississippi, having been selected as the spokesman of this State, and delivered an oration which has been classed as a masterpiece of forceful thought and eloquent diction.

General West was the son of a romantic union, his father being a soldier in the continental army and wounded at the battle of Kings Mountain and was carried bleeding from the field by a Miss Tubb, who nursed him back to health and they then married.

Mrs. West² came of the distinguished North Carolina family of the Alstons. It will be remembered that Governor Alston of North Carolina married the beautiful daughter of Aaron Burr, who the pirates compelled to walk the plank at sea to a watery grave and whose death was a mystery until one of the pirates on his deathbed

cles which lasted long after the plant passed into history." *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 13.

¹ Born in Alabama in 1818, Absalom Madden West came to Holly Springs in 1870, from Oxford. After control of the railroad passed into the hands of the Illinois Central System, he was involved with various other local manufacturing enterprises, such as the wagon factory, a marble works, and the town's street car line. West Street in Holly Springs, leading out to the Experiment Station, was named in his memory. Hamilton, 122-23; *Southern Tapestry*, 86; see photo, p. 96.

² The former Caroline Glover, of Alabama.

disclosed it, stating that ever since he had seen her mount the plank her beauty and her courage had remained constantly before him and he felt he could not go to his death until he confessed and obtained pardon for his part in the tragedy.

5.

COL. GOODRICH FAMED AS CITY'S WAR MAYOR.

Chief Magistrate for Several Terms and Was an Early Victim
of Fever Epidemic—Billie Jones Served as City Marshal.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (March 3, 1932).¹
Col. A. W. Goodrich, war mayor of Holly Springs, was one of the best and, in the way of doing his duty, one of the most courageous mayors the city ever had.

His was a many sided and apparently contradictory nature. Portly in person, reserved in manner rather stern in countenance, he still carried a kindly, sympathetic heart. Small boys who were inclined to mischief stood in great awe of him, though a kindly lecture was about all such offenders would receive.²

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter* (December 15, 1932 and May 1, 1941).

² Cora Harris Watson told of encounters with Mayor Goodrich in April 1865, as she and a committee of Holly Springs women sought donations to help the families of soldiers who had been killed or maimed in the war. The reports give insight into his colorful and mischievous character. "Thursday, April 13, 1865. With lighter hearts than have beat in our bosoms for a long time, Sister and I set out this morning on an errand which we believed to be one of usefulness to our Cause....We left home at about seven-thirty, and went to Mr. Fort's and offered our services to him as agents in town of the committee appointed to collect contributions for Mr. Trenholm. We thought it would be better for ladies to do this in town for several reasons, and Mr. Fort fully concurred with us in this opinion, and gladly accepted our offer. We went first to see old Col. Lucas. He was at home, and his daughter, Mrs. Cal Smith, was with him. After some general conversation, Sister introduced the subject of our visit; but, although Col. Lucas was enthusiastically patriotic, he was actually unable to contribute anything to the support of the Confederacy. He had no money, plate, jewels, but finally gave us a gold-headed cane. The old man looks very feeble—as if he had one foot in the grave—and I [do] not think he would try to deceive us. I hope not. Mrs. Smith agreed to be one of the twenty or twenty-five to contribute \$20.00 in gold, or plate or jewelry to that amount. They recommended Mr. Stillman to us; and we went there, but were told at the door that he was sick in bed, and we went across the street to Mr. Roberts. The ladies were at home and received us and our business

kindly. The girls joined our society, and all promised to assist Mr. Trenholm, but could not say how far, Mr. Roberts not being at home. We thought there would be no impropriety in our seeing Mr. Stillman if Mrs. Roberts would go with us, which she readily agreed to do. We returned to Mr. Stillman's and saw him. He was in bed and looked badly. He gave a \$100.00 Confederate note, and promised to do more when he got better. From there we went to Mr. Strickland's, the jeweler, whom we thought to be a 'blockade runner,' and therefore we wanted from him a liberal contribution. We were mistaken—in both our suppositions. He is a poor man, and I believe a worthy one. He did as well as he could, I think, giving a \$50.00 Confederate note. Our next place was Mrs. Bracken's. Charlie Bracken has just returned from prison, and his mother has to buy a horse and outfit for him, besides having all the care of the whole family on herself, but she gave a \$100.00 Confederate to the cause. Mrs. Lucas promised to become one of the twenty-five if she could. Said she would let us know in a few days. We crossed the street to Mr. E. A. Thomas'. There we found a good deal of patriotism. Mr. Thomas, as soon as we disclosed the object of our visit, handed me a \$50.00 note (Confederate). Sister said, 'Mr. Thomas, we expected the gentlemen to give Confederate money by hundreds and thousands.' He looked a little blank, and took the note back, giving \$100.00 in place of it. He told us to get after some of these sick old fellows about town and tell him what they gave, and he would give more. Mrs. Thomas' silver was burned in their house, but she gave us the blackened and melted fragments of it, and Miss Laura promised to look over her effects and see what she could give. We started to old Captain Chew's, but seeing Col. Goodrich and Dr. Gholson standing in front of Col. Goodrich's office, we stopped to present Mr. Trenholm's call to them. Col. Goodrich was quite facetious on the subject. Asked us what Col. Lucas gave, and offered to buy the cane and told us to ask him how much he would take for his blue cockade and sash—that he was anxious to procure them. Recommended Capt. Chew to us, said he would undoubtedly have no money, but to tell him he would lend him as much Confederate greenback or gold as he was willing to give. Dr. Gholson promised us a contribution in Confederate money, but Col. Goodrich would only snap his eyes and snuffle out teasing things, and we left him. Stopped at Miss Car-

His kindly and forbearing nature was evidenced in that people were constantly playing jokes on him—April Fool time especially.¹

One April 1st came coal wagons with the query: "where shall I throw it off, Colonel?" Porters from the six or eight saloons around the square converged on his bachelor quarters with trays full of drinks and so on, while the Colonel purpling with indignation, begged to be told who the offender was. A bawling-out in the stage Southern colonel style, and no loss of friendship, would have been the sequel, had he been told.

teasing things, and we left him. Stopped at Miss Carrie's. She promised to give \$20.00 in plate, and Stell offered her gold thimble and bracelet. Met Capt. Chew coming. Presented Mr. Trenholm's call to him. Had invested all his money in Texas and had nothing, was sorry. Sister said she knew a gentleman who would lend him whatever he was willing to give. He asked who, and Sister told him Col. Goodrich. He promised to see him. Called to tell Cousin Sue we would take dinner with her, then went on to Mr. Govan's. Met old Mr. McCulley, but found him the hardest case we had met—he pleaded no excuse, but refused to give anything. We had expected a contribution of silver from Mrs. Govan, but the Yankees had stolen all she had. We had thought perhaps Mrs. McCulley would be more generous than her husband and called on her. She and Miss Pet were very much interested in the cause, but Miss Pet had nothing, and Mrs. McCulley must consult Mr. McCulley. As we were leaving, Sister said, "Mrs. McCulley, I must tell you we have seen Mr. McCulley, and he refused to give anything—he was the first person who refused to contribute." She seemed mortified and said, "He was?" and told us to tell him she was willing to give anything he chose, if it were a hundred or a hundred and fifty dollars. Went on to Cousin Sue's and got dinner. She gave \$10.00 in gold. Next went to Mr. Fort to report. Col. Goodrich was again standing before his office door, and we asked Mr. Fort to call him over. We told him what we had told Capt. Chew and asked if he had seen him—he had not. Sister said, "Col. Goodrich, what are you going to give?" He said he thought if he bought up all the gold-headed canes and notes, etc., he would be doing his part. Said we did not want to trouble ourselves with these hard old cases, but wanted to get everything a good-natured fellow like him had." See *Civil War Women*, 103-10. Holly Springs author Sherwood Bonner used Goodrich as a model for Squire Barton in her novel *Like unto Like* (1878); *Prodigal Daughter*, 117, 140.

¹ According to Emma Finley, Goodrich was not always a tease. He was one of a group who requested Presbyterian minister Henry Paine to repeat his stirring sermon "The Nature and Duration of Divine Punishment," *Our Pen Is Time*, 8.

Dear old Aunt Mandy House, a famous colored cook of post-war times, put cotton in his battercakes on April Fool day.

BILLIE JONES CITY MARSHALL

I have spoken of Col. Goodrich as the war mayor—as a matter of fact he served several terms before and after the war, and he had a good second during most of the time in Town Marshall Billie Jones, father of Bud Jones of the present day.

Billie Jones was rather short in stature but compactly built, strong, wiry and courageous. Like Mayor Goodrich he had a kindly nature, but it did not interfere with business in crucial moments, and he used to bring in some big, tough guys.

The War of the Sixties had drained the town of all men and boys able to bear arms, and women and children were left unprotected. Tough characters, hangers on of both armies, swarmed in and on petition of the women the Confederate military authorities released Mr. Jones and he was sent back to protect them. The Federal authorities did not arrest or interfere with him.

Once the court was opened Mayor Goodrich played no favorites, justice was impartial. The weak and helpless offender received kindly consideration, the arrogant and presumptuous got what was justly coming to them.

Col. "John Doe" was of ancient family, but disposed to be ugly in his cups. He was carried around to the mayor's office one day, where he stormed. "Take him to jail, Billie, and bring him back tomorrow at 9 o'clock," said Mayor Goodrich, in his fine, piping voice. Col. Doe regarded his person as sacrosanct, but to jail he went, and it had a beneficial effect on his conduct thereafter.

FINED HIMSELF \$5.00

There is an apocryphal legend that being disturbed by the shouting and singing at a negro church, Mayor Goodrich went to the door and shouted: "I wish you d—d niggers wouldn't make so much fuss," and went back to his office and fined himself \$5.00 for disturbing public worship.

I cannot allocate the Colonel's quarters and the negro church—but he was just like that.

Maj. Gen. Crittenden of Kentucky and of the Confederate army came to Holly Springs on some military duty early in the war, and was quartered at the Magnolia Hotel.

Someone told Mayor Goodrich that as the first gentleman of Holly Springs it was his duty to officially call on and greet Gen. Crittenden, the ranking officer, I believe, of either army to visit Holly Springs.

Judge James M. Greer, now of Beaumont, Texas, tells that he as a boy was snooping around the hotel stairway to get sight of the big man, when Mayor Goodrich entered, agitated from a bad case of stage fright.

Absentmindedly returning young Greer's salute he grasped his hand and dragged him up the stairway into "the presence," and, I believe, out on the balcony where the waiting crowd could

hear, and didn't release his hold until they had reached the street.

Mayor Goodrich occupied a one-room frame house across the street from the present City Hall. He had opposed inviting yellow fever refugees here in 1878, and when two cases developed at the corner, promptly moved to the Lawrence House (Traveler's Inn).

He died of the fever about a week later, on Saturday morning, August 31, the first citizen to fall victim. Quick burial was the custom in yellow fever cases, and the funeral, held that afternoon, was the last public funeral held until after the epidemic.

E. M. Smith was a pallbearer at Col. Goodrich's funeral.

6.

COMPILES A HISTORY OF MARSHALL COUNTY AND HOLLY SPRINGS.

William Baskerville Hamilton Chooses this Section for Subject of Thesis
Required for Master's Degree—The Golden Age of the Forties and Fifties.

HOLLY SPRINGS (September 17, 1931).¹ William Baskerville Hamilton, of Jackson, Miss., has accomplished a work that has long been desired, the compilation of a history of Holly Springs and Marshall County.

Mr. Hamilton chose this city and county as subjects of a thesis to be submitted to the faculty of the University of Mississippi in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in the Department of History.

He was a member of the faculty of Holly Springs High School a few years ago.²

He had no idea of writing a history to be published, but friends here who have read a typed copy are insistent that it be permanently preserved in a substantially bound book, and it seems likely that this will be done.³

HISTORY CONTAINS 275 TYPEWRITTEN PAGES

The work entailed a large amount of research and the material was gathered from people who had lived through much of the period covered, from antebellum Holly Springs newspapers, letters, books, and histories. Mr. Hamilton is careful to give his authorities, and *The South Reporter* historical stories, that have been running since the spring of 1930, are often cited.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² William Baskerville Hamilton was born in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1908, and became a professor of British and American history—at the end of his career donating a collection of over 45,000 items to the Duke University library. He joined the faculty there in 1936 and taught there until his death in 1972.

³ See William Baskerville Hamilton, *Holly Springs Mississippi To the Year 1878* (Holly Springs: Marshall County Historical Society, 1984).

The thesis does not bring the history to the present day, but beginning at a period several years before the organization of the city and county, continues until the fateful year of 1878, when the city was visited by the yellow fever.

Among subjects covered are the churches and schools, the military history of the county and city, with rosters of local troops in the Mexican War and the War of the Sixties, a list of the yellow fever victims, and a list of some of the early citizens.

THE CITY'S GOLDEN AGE

The golden age of the city and county came in the late '40's and the '50's, and of that period Mr. Hamilton has this to say:

"The period from the War with Mexico to the Civil War was the age of Holly Springs' greatest material prosperity. She built mansions and public buildings and the Mississippi Central Railroad; her population and her wealth grew apace. Marshall County was known as the 'Empire County,' and Holly Springs as 'The Capital of North Mississippi.'⁴

"It was, too, her greatest period spiritually and culturally speaking. Her schools were widely renowned; she was riding the crest of the noble wave of dignity and beauty of a civilization built on leisure and traditions of all that made the Southern life so delightful that it is today the subject of a growing nostalgia, and plans for its survival.

"The South was in the saddle in national politics and its people were enjoying the fruits of the period and a place where a business was made

⁴ Mr. Hamilton, of course, spoke from the perspective of the white planters and railroad builders.

of living. Holly Springs' gifted daughter, Sherwood Bonner, speaks of her people:

"They had the immense dignity of those who live in inherited homes, with the simplicity of manner that comes of an assured social position. They were handsome, healthy, full of physical force, as all people must be who ride horseback,—and not lie awake at night to wonder why they were born. That they were Southerners, was, of course, their first cause of congratulation. After a Northern tour, they were glad to come home and tell how they were recognized as Southerners everywhere—in the cars and shops and theatres. They felt their Southern accent a grace and a distinction, separating them from a people who walked fast, talked through their noses and built railroads.'

"In 1850, Marshall County had a larger population than any county in the state, with her 14,271 whites, 1 free negro, and 15,147 slaves,¹ and more whites than any county except Tippah, and more slaves than any county except Hinds. She raised 32,775 bales of cotton and large quantities of wheat, fruits, and corn.

"In 1860, after part of her territory had been taken away, she had a population of 28,823, and raised 49,348 bales of cotton, more than any similar division of land in the world, even Bolivar County.²

"Excluding the state University, Marshall County spent more money on education than the rest of the state put together (in 1850).

"Holly Springs was the center of this empire. There lived the leaders and most of the rich planters; and probably the most important, it was the market place. Shortly after 1850, her population, 3,500, nearly tripled what it was in 1841.

"Another railroad attempt was made in 1848, the last before the Mississippi Central. In fact, this company was the father of that enterprise.

"In an act approved in February, 1848, the Holly Springs Railroad Company was incorporated. The charter stated that it might run from

Holly Springs to the northern boundary of the state through Marshall or DeSoto Counties, or through DeSoto and Tunica to the river. The capital stock was \$800,000, divided into \$100 shares.

"Its incorporators were:

"Walter Goodman, Samuel McCorkle, Peter W. Lucas, John C. Gibbons, Richard H. Parham, Alexander M. Clayton, Charles L. Thomas, James W. Hill, Joseph Mosley, Thomas Mull, Hamilton Thornton, William F. Mason, Roger Barton, Hugh Craft, John B. Fant.

"James C. Anderson, Daniel Boone, Joseph G. Hall, Ransom H. Byrn, James M. Howry, Simeon Oliver, Samuel T. Cobb, William W. Tucker, Richard Abbey, John R. Norfleet, William V. Taylor, Lawrence W. Evans, John H. Morgan, I. C. N. Robertson, James Brown, Edward H. Steger.

"Before building was ever started they got bigger schemes on foot, and the act was amended to (1) authorize the company to extend the road east to the Alabama line, (2) increase the capital stock from \$800,000 to \$2,500,000, (3) authorize consolidation or connection with Tennessee or Alabama companies, (4) to extend the time for beginning it from four to six years.

"Before this time limit was up, a new company had been formed and the Mississippi Central projected.

"In 1848 Marshall County elected her only governor, Joseph Matthews."

¹ According to the 1850 census, Marshall County ranked second in the state in the number of slaves in use.

² Marshall County's population in 1860 included 1,917 free white male voters, and 15,448 slaves.

7.

VENERABLE MRS. ROSA BARTON TYLER CELEBRATES NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY.

HOLLY SPRINGS (December 10, 1931). Maj. Roger Barton, one of the leading lawyers at the bar in Holly Springs and in the state, and his wife, Mrs. Eudora Barry Barton, came to Holly Springs from Bolivar, Tenn., in 1836, the year in which this city was founded.¹

The Barton family and their descendants have been closely identified with the city, without a break, throughout its history. The sole survivor of the name, Mrs. Rosa Barton Tyler observed her ninetieth birthday July 5; and she is the only descendant now living in Holly Springs.²

Maj. Barton was born near Knoxville, Tenn., October 10, 1802, and read law in Knoxville and practiced his profession there. He moved to Bolivar, Tenn., in 1827 and in 1833 married Miss Eudora Barry, sister of his law partner, Judge V. D. Barry. Mrs. Barton died in 1848 and Maj. Barton in 1855. They were Episcopalians in faith, and most of his descendants have continued in that church.

After coming to Holly Springs the Bartons lived on a plantation the Major had bought on Coldwater Creek, north of the city, but practicing his profession in Holly Springs.

Later he built the old Barton home on what is now Craft Street and moved to the city. The

house still stands, and is owned and occupied by Mrs. James Clinton Totten, Sr.³

The house does not front on Craft Street, on which it is now situated. The site of the present Craft house, "The Pines," was part of the Barton front yard and the street on which it fronted is now only an alley.⁴

³ Many of the early Holly Springs houses were built before many of the town's principal streets were laid out. Located at what is now 265 South Craft Street, the two story colonnaded house, now called "Greenwood," is presently the home of Mr. Jackson H. Wittjen. During the Civil War the house is said to have had a tunnel, where persons and valuables were concealed during enemy raids. The present portico and balcony were added in the 1930s. The balustrade or captain's walk were popular additions at that time.

⁴ As the great houses gave up their pasture lands, gardens, and barns, lots were carved from the old properties, and additional streets paved through the city. The "alley" to which Mr. Mickle refers, was paved through land that once provided pasture for some of the large houses, and smaller lots for houses were carved out from this acreage in later years, the first being "The Pines," in 1871, the Addison Craft home. The street is now known as Elder Avenue, named for James Elder, one of the town's early citizens, whose home stood on the north side of the block between Minor and Craft Streets. It burned long ago. Mrs. Shirley Forester Ross, of Memphis, a former resident of Holly Springs, wrote the editor of *The South Reporter* about her memories of childhood in Holly Springs. At that time the Presbyterian manse was located at the corner of Craft and Elder (the big white bungalow on the northwest corner now owned by Mrs. Stanley Mulliken). She said, "I lived on Elder Street and played with the preacher's children, Betty and Jimmy Harrell [daughter and son of the Rev. and Mrs. Wade Hillman Harrell]. One day we were playing under the magnolia tree and Mrs. Wilson was working her garden when we all saw a big black snake. Betty climbed to the top of the magnolia tree and could not come down. Mrs. Wilson killed the snake with a hoe, but Betty would not come down. We had to run to town to get the Presbyterian preacher to get Betty out of the top of the tree. Mrs. Wilson went to bed for three days, and we all stayed away from the tree forever. I want to go back one day to see how tall the tree is by now, or if it is still there. Anyway, we were

¹ Roger Barton (1802-1855), was a distinguished member of the Holly Springs bar from 1836 until his death. Reared in Tennessee, he served in the legislature and was attorney general of that state. He was in partnership with Sen. Joseph W. Chalmers of Holly Springs, and was sent to the Mississippi legislature in a special election for the 1839 term. As a lawyer, he was said to have "an almost unequalled reputation...in criminal cases." He and Chalmers defended more than twenty men for homicide, and never failed to secure acquittal. Henry S. Foote, *The Bench and Bar of the South and Southwest* (St. Louis: Soule, Thomas & Wentworth, 1876), 111; Hamilton, 96, 98; *Southern Tapestry*, 50, 110; see photo, 23.

² See photo, *Southern Tapestry*, 50.

Maj. Barton made a specialty of criminal practice in law, and it is said that in this line he never lost a case.

He never prosecuted a man for his life. In a trial the late Judge J. W. C. Watson said of him: "My friend Barton never prosecutes a man for his life," to which Maj. Barton replied: "There might be such conditions that I would, but it would never be for money."¹

INTEREST IN POLITICS

Maj. Barton always took great interest in politics, state and national, was a Democrat and an ardent advocate of state's rights. For twenty years he was one of the ablest and most influential political leaders in his section; but did not seek the spoils of his office.²

While living in Bolivar, he was sent to the Tennessee legislature from Hardeman County, and afterwards was selected by that body for attorney general.

He was sent from Marshall County in 1838 to the Mississippi legislature, and again in 1849.

In 1837, in connection with Gov. Vroom of New Jersey, he was appointed by the President on the commission to examine claims of the Choctaw Indians to contingent reservations under the treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek; and was tendered by President Pierce, later, the position of U. S. Consul to Cuba, but declined.

Attending Federal court in Pontotoc while the district convention was in session, he learned that he had been nominated for Congress by that body, but went immediately to the convention hall and declined the honor.

Maj. and Mrs. Barton had three daughters and two sons—Mary, Roger (who fell in the War of the Sixties), Rosa, Hugh, and Louise.

all amazed that Betty could climb that high, and it was unbelievable that a Presbyterian preacher could climb a tree!" She said, "If you were rich you lived on Craft, and if of average means, on Elder Street. At one time or another everybody in town lived on Elder Street."

¹ Dr. Samuel Creed Gholson (1828-1910), was another early Holly Springs citizen who opposed capital punishment.

² See *It Happened Here*, 31.

Miss Mary Barton married in 1855 Capt. William Clark of Holly Springs, a noted educator; and later an officer in the Confederate army.³ Of this union were born Rosa May, who married Richard Henry Tunstall in 1880. She died in 1903, and Mr. Tunstall in 1906. Mrs. Tunstall was a gifted musician, specializing on the organ, and for many years was organist and leader of Christ Church choir.

Dora Barton Clark, who died in 1877, and Roger Barton Clark in 1861 in childhood.

William S. Clark (died in 1914), who married Miss Mary Cooper of Memphis. Mrs. Clark and her children Louise, Rosa May, William and Flett Spencer, now live in Memphis.

Mary (Maimee) Courtney Clark, now lives in Atlantic City; married Charles Wright (now deceased). Of their children two sons, Courtney and William live in New York; a daughter, Lenora (Mrs. Berenati) in Atlantic City. Courtney has a son Jack and William a son, Courtney. Mrs. Berenati a little daughter, Courtney.

Lizzie Lenore Clark married Arthur Gholson in August 1893. She died July 2, 1897. Lizzie Clark was the most gifted amateur pianist I ever heard; and her rendition of Rhapsody No. 2 was the wild, gypsy abandon that I believe Liszt intended to write into it.

They had two children, Mary Barton and Samuel Creed Gholson. Mary Barton married Herbert B. Dowell of Dallas, Texas, but they now live in St. Louis. They have two daughters, Elizabeth and Dorothy.

Gallant Lieut. Samuel Creed Gholson fell October 4, 1918, in the Meuse-Argonne drive in the World War, and his body rests in France.

³ William Clark was a graduate of Amherst College in Massachusetts. His name first appears in local publications through an advertisement for St. Thomas Hall in 1859. The Clarks owned the home that in recent years has been called the Buchanan Place, which the George Buchanans named "Colonsay Cottage," for their ancestral home in Scotland at 315 East College Avenue, just east of Old St. Joseph's Church. The house, built in 1840, is an early example of Greek Revival architecture in Holly Springs. The Gothic doorway is not original but was taken from a house on South Craft Street that was demolished in the 1950s. *Southern Tapestry*, 69, 87, 110.

OPENED FÉNELON HALL

Shortly after the War of the Sixties, Capt. William Clark opened Fénelon Hall, a school for young ladies, on College Avenue. One of the houses is Mrs. Rosa Tyler's home, the other Con Bonds'. Later he acquired old historic Franklin College, which stood on the site of the H. Myers home and which he conducted until his death in 1878. Mrs. Clark and her sister Mrs. Rosa Goodloe took up the work after his death. It was sold in 1890 and the name changed to Malone College.¹

Miss Rosa Barton, the second daughter of Maj. and Mrs. Barton, now Mrs. Rosa Barton Tyler, at ninety is as mentally bright as ever, and happily combines a wonderful knowledge of the past with a lively interest in the present.

She married David Goodloe of Arkansas in 1860. He died in a Federal prison during the War of the Sixties, and she again made Holly Springs her home. She married in 1880 Col. F. A. Tyler, who had sold his interest a few years before in *The Memphis Evening Ledger*, of which he was editor, and bought *The Holly Springs South*. A

son was born to them, Roger Barton Tyler, who is now a prominent citizen of Austin, Texas.

He married in 1908 Miss Jane McCrosky, a gifted musician daughter of Mrs. Eula Means and the late Alex B. McCrosky. Their children are Fisher, Ames, Jane, Roger Barton, Harvey Alexander and Rosa May.

Hugh Barton, second son of Maj. and Mrs. Barton, served gallantly in Morgan's command in the war. He died in 1891.

Miss Louise (Luty) Barton married Judge John D. Rector of Bastrop, Texas, in 1867. They moved to Austin, Texas, where he died in 1898. Mrs. Rector died there in 1918.

¹ The Holly Springs school called Fénelon Hall had several incarnations. It seems to have grown out of efforts begun by Elizabeth Davis Watson, with William Clark, in the J. W. C. Watson house in the autumn of 1864 and spring of 1865. Miss Watson named her school Fénelon Hall, in memory of François Fénelon, the celebrated French pedagogue. Soon thereafter Clark, a member of the pre-war faculty at St. Thomas Hall, began teaching in his home. Clark's school was also called Fénelon Hall. Eventually Clark and Watson taught separately, with Miss Lizzie Watson's "Select School for Young Ladies" continuing as "Maury Institute," in the parlors of her father's house just down the street from the Clark Place. In 1869, Clark and the Rev. Henry Paine taught together in Franklin Female College, and in 1871, *The Independent South* announced the beginning of classes in Fénelon Hall, conducted by John Creighton and William Clark. Much later—from 1893 to 1908—Mrs. Rosa Barton Tyler, Clark's sister in law, began a school for young children called Fénelon Hall. It occupied two houses on College Avenue—the Clark Place and another house to the east, no longer extant. A text book belonging to Miss Kate Bonner, inscribed "Fénelon Hall, 1866," is preserved in the historical room of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church. See Rosa Barton Tyler, "Holly Springs Schools" (unpub. research paper, Holly Springs, n.d.); *Civil War Women*, 139, 254; *Southern Tapestry*, 69, 85, 98; see photo, p. 30.

8.

GOT TO HOLLY SPRINGS BY ERROR, BUT STAYED.

Saga of the Sniders, Father and Son, Mostly of the Father who
Landed in this City When He Should Have Gone to Hot Springs, Ark.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (December 10, 1931).¹ This is a saga of the Sniders—father and son, mostly of the father.

I have mentioned before that Holly Springs of old bristled with characters that might challenge the pen of a Dickens or Kipling, and Herman Snider's was a colorful life.

He came here before the Civil War, but I knew him later. He was a good fellow but got on the nerves. He was a Catholic, but afterward became Methodist, then in his last illness sent for the priest.

When the boys from Holly Springs, his son Herman among them, enlisted in the Spanish-American war I thought of joining up. Snider took a friendly interest and said "Yon, don't do it," and then told me his military experience.²

Snider was a German, but at that time there were independent kingdoms, later welded into the German Empire. He hailed from Westphalia—"Where the good hams came from," he said with pride.

He was doing his military service in the cavalry, a regiment of cuirassiers, and had fallen out with his officer, who retaliated with petty tyrannies. The cuirass, he explained, was of thin steel that encased the torso and properly fitted was supported by the shoulders, but if too large rest-

¹ This article is a slightly revised version of one that appeared in *The South Reporter* (May 28, 1931).

² Eager to be part of the action, but a bit old for military service (he was 38), Mr. Mickle served for a year as a war correspondent for *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*. The *Holly Springs South* (September 22, 1898), carries this amusing note: "John M. Mickle, war correspondent for *The Commercial Appeal*, returned home this week from Chickamauga, where the First Regiment of Mississippi is stationed, much the worse for wear."

ed on the thighs when mounted and might inflict serious wounds in rough drilling. The officer assigned him a large one.

He and the officer had a fight at the stable and Snider licked him and was later exonerated by court martial. The irritated officer, however, became more tyrannical and one blizzly night ordered Snider to do sentry duty all night in front of his door with his saber at attention. Snider told me that he prayed that the officer might come out, when he would have beheaded him with the saber.

So he decided to cut the army and go to America where he had relatives living in Hot Springs, Ark.³ He had received money from his family and a box of eats, including one of the famous hams.

He left the provisions for his mess, and posting a cryptic unsigned note to his family, hinting of his intentions, went to the village and bought a suit of clothes.

He went to a field and changed garments, hiding the uniform under the potato vines, and started out. A river marked the boundary and each kingdom kept a sentinel at its bridgehead. How to get across?

A charcoal burner and his wife lived near and Snider, telling his story, threw himself on their mercy. They were sympathetic and the women next morning blacked him with charcoal and putting a sack of it on his shoulder started for the

³ Gustavus Adolphus Palm (1839-1917), another early Holly Springs citizen, whose story is told elsewhere in these pages (see p. 382), also had his trials with the German army, requiring the intervention of the U. S. State Department to gain his release when he was arrested for failure to perform military service on a return visit to his native Prussia.

bridge, scolding him as they approached the sentinel to aid the deception.

Safe across, he posted a second unsigned letter to his parents, giving his address, and a few days later a stranger entered his room and gave him money for his passage to America.

He cut across country to England and sailed from Liverpool on an English ship. He could speak no English and though he had bought a first class ticket he was sent to the steerage, where he had to assist the cook and in an alteration laid the latter out with a skillet.

The captain ordered him staked out on a deck and he lay cursing his luck. A German passenger overheard him, and learning his story saw the captain and had him restored to liberty.

Fate at last smiled on him in New York through the blunder of a ticket agent, who unable to understand his intended designation was Hot Springs, Ark., ticketed him to Holly Springs, Miss. He liked the place, decided to locate here and prospered.

His son Herman had his go at the army as a private in the First Mississippi Regiment during the Spanish-American war. In camp at Chickamauga it grated on his nerves to have to salute officers, especially young fellows of his own regiment with whom he had sat in games of poker in peace times on terms of equality.

He got his revenge while on sentry-duty, when an officer of a New York regiment, riding a bob-tailed horse, galloped by without returning his salute. Young Snider halted him with great unction and made him return the salute.

9.

GAVE OXFORD ACRES FOR 'OLE MISS' SITE.**Controversy Over Moving University to Jackson Brings to Light
Deeding of Ground to Get Institution Established in Lafayette County.**

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (March __, 1928). The recent controversy over removing the University of Mississippi from Oxford to Jackson drew forth among other things a copy of the deed by which John D. Martin and his wife Sarah Martin of Lafayette County, deeded for a consideration of ten dollars 320 acres of land to the state of Mississippi and in further consideration that the University of Mississippi should be located thereon. The deed is dated December 10, 1841.

Another half section of land came from another party and under the same considerations was also made.

The Martin deed has a local connection as Mr. and Mrs. Martin while owning a plantation in Lafayette County,¹ spent much of their time at their suburban home just southwest of the city limits on the Peyton Road.

The house occupied a site that commanded a fine view of hill and valley to the south, and to the north a panoramic sweep of the "Rocky Mountain" range of hills to the other "Martin Hill" around which the Memphis highway now curves.²

¹ John Davidson and Sarah Martin were among the founders of the town of Oxford, Mississippi. *Southern Tapestry*, 27. Martin's largest block of land was along the Tallahatchie River in Marshall County.

² This house was described by the late Charles Nunnally Dean as a large frame plantation house. *Prodigal Daughter*, 4. George M. Moreland, columnist for *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*, described the Memphis highway—then unpaved—as "the oldest road of all the historic highways that enter Memphis." In those days the route went out Linden Avenue to Lamar, named for the Mississippi jurist and statesman L. Q. C. Lamar, and from there followed a route in use since Indian days, known as the "Pigeon Roost Road." Moreland wrote of his trip down the old road, "I saw soft sunshine; I saw wild flowers, God's own messengers to remind us that the world is beautiful; I saw

Until a few years ago many of the beautiful trees and shrubs that adorned the lawn of the John D. Martin home were still living, and the broad terraces around the hill were visible. The house was destroyed during the Civil War.

On the other Martin hill lived Col. Andrew and Rebecca Martin in a fine old colonial brick house.³ A lone pine tree is all that is left of the glory that was once theirs.

Before the Civil War both Martin families were large landowners and wealthy, and stood high socially. Both families were Episcopalians and their names figure much in the early annals of Christ Church in this city. They all sleep in the large Martin lot in Hill Crest Cemetery.

In this same lot also rest the ashes of the Rev. Dr. J. H. Ingraham, rector of Christ Church, whose books *The Prince of the House of David* and *The Pillar of Fire* are still read with interest.

the romance of the cotton fields; and I saw a land that is beautiful despite its dusty graveled roads." Moreland reminded readers that in pioneer times the road was paved with wooden planks. He said of Holly Springs that "If Highway No. 78 passed through no other community in Mississippi save Holly Springs it would be well worth the tourist's while to journey that way. All the wealth of lofty local annals; all the beauty of a sedate old city of yesterday; all the memories of hospitality; all these things, and many more, surge through the mind when the tourist passes through the courthouse square at Holly Springs." *Commercial Appeal* (October 26, 1930).

³ Dean described this as an elegant home with eight rooms on Martin's Hill. The Martins were relatives of author Sherwood Bonner, and from their country place Bonner observed that "the town could be seen like a picture in smoke." *Prodigal Daughter*, 4.



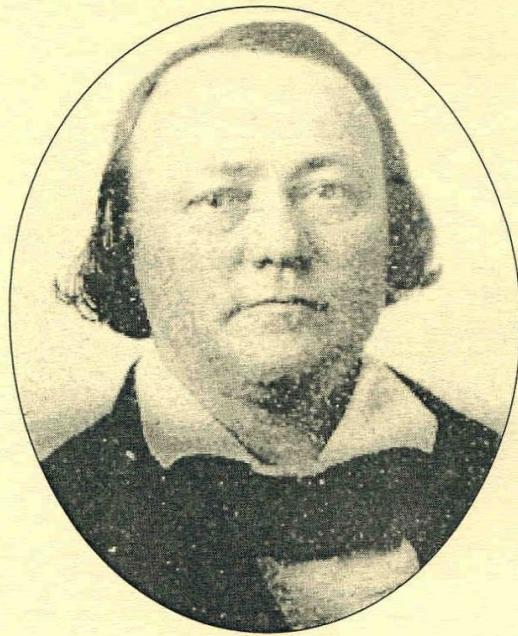
Robert B. Alexander, pioneer settler and diarist.
Photo courtesy of Dr. Robert E. Tyson.



The Robert B. Alexander family about 1862.
Photo courtesy of Dr. Robert E. Tyson.



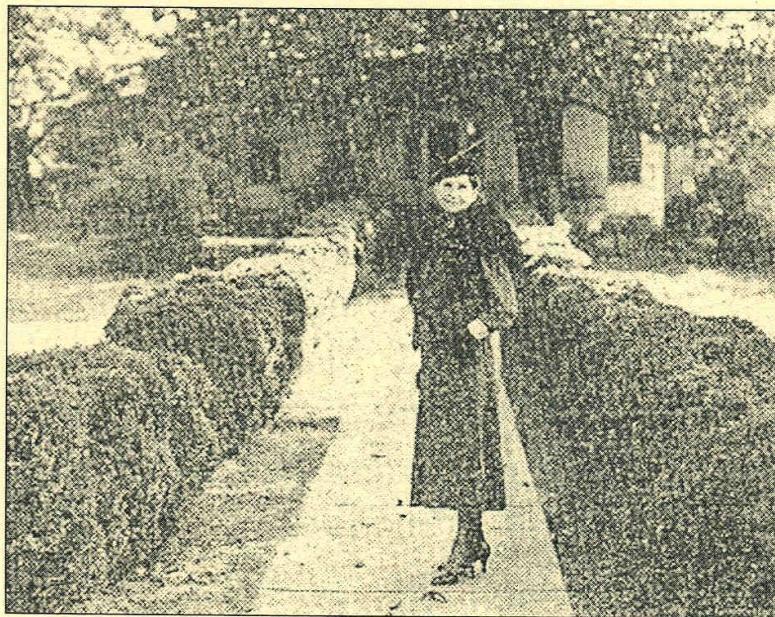
The Tyson Hotel, which stood at the southeast corner of Gholson and Market Streets. Mr. Mickle wrote that "Mrs. Dora Tyson bought the brick cottage on Gholson Avenue and South Market and started with a few boarders over forty years ago. Business has increased and she built a two-story frame house, with the cottage as an annex and named it the Tyson Hotel." Chesley Smith collection.



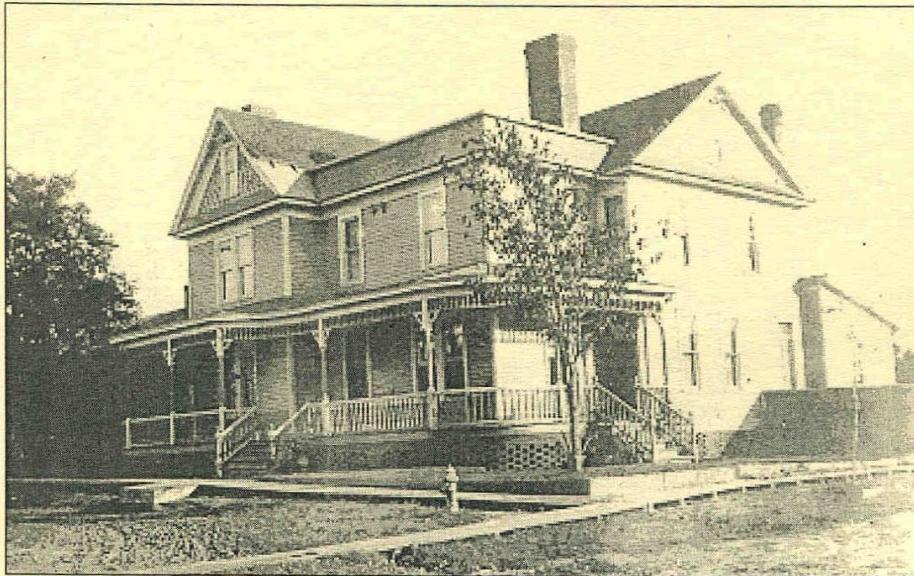
Col. Peter Walker Lucas,
Photo courtesy of Mrs. Theresa Totten Wittjen.



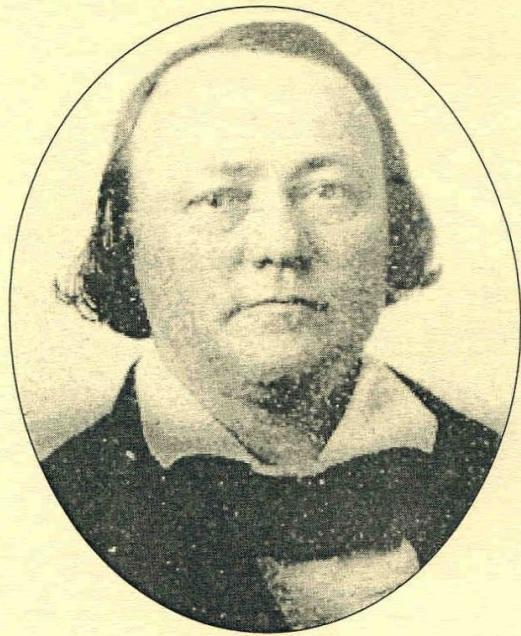
Daisy Lucas and her mother Ella Bracken Lucas.
Photo courtesy of Mrs. Theresa Totten Wittjen.



Elizabeth Howard Blanton (Mrs. Egbert) Jones welcomes guests to her home for the
Marshall County Centennial Celebration in October 1936.
Photo from The Memphis Press-Scimitar.



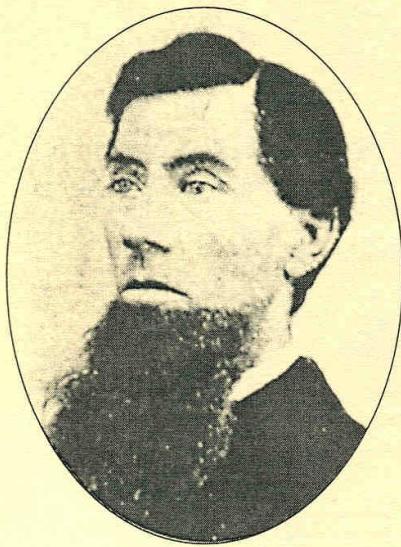
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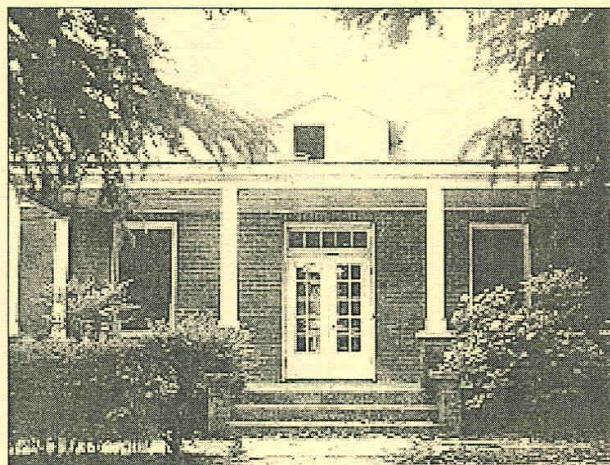
Col. Peter Walker Lucas,
Photo courtesy of Mrs. Theresa Totten Wittjen.



A class of young ladies is pictured in front of Maury Institute, with Miss Lizzie Watson standing at the left.
The school was named in honor of Commander Matthew Fontaine Maury, Mr. Mickle's kinsman,
whom he admired as "the pathfinder of the seas." Photo from the Hubert McAlexander collection.



Capt. William Clark, Holly Springs teacher.
Hubert McAlexander collection.



View of the old William Clark house on
East College Avenue, prior to remodeling when it was renamed
"Colonsay Cottage." Photo by Chesley Smith.

Chapter IX. Houses.

1.

ALEXANDER HOME ONE OF OLDEST PIONEERS.

Famous Plantation and Handsome Two-Story Bungalow Just South of City Dates Back to [1836].—House Remodeled Ten Years Ago.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (August 28, 1930).¹ The Alexander plantation just south of the city has been in continuous possession of the family for a century. It was bought by Robert Burrell Alexander in [1836]² and children of the fourth generation are now living in the house and playing beneath the grand old trees that surround it.

The house crowns a hill that commands a view of Holly Springs a mile away as the crow flies. By the road which debouches into the Jeff Davis Highway. It is two miles and a half to town. This detour was made in the early days to avoid cutting through valuable valley land.

Mr. Alexander was originally from Virginia and settled near Columbia, Tenn., but severe tornadoes discouraged him and he decided to try his fortune in the newly opened territory of North Mississippi. With his father, John E. Alexander, he came to what was later organized into Marshall County and bought this land from the Indians. John E. Alexander built his home in the valley, and it is still standing.

Like all early settlers Robert Alexander³ built a double-log cabin for immediate shelter, and the rest of the house was added to it. Several very

nice residences in Holly Springs had the same beginning and still enfold these sturdy log cabins. The old house contained thirteen rooms.

REMODELED TEN YEARS AGO

About ten years ago the house was remodeled into a modern two-story bungalow, with connections for lights and water. Little change was made in the old house itself beyond cutting a few windows and doors, the changes consisting principally in the way of porches and a terrace on the roof.

From the terrace a beautiful view is to be had of the distant hills and the valleys between. The view is somewhat obscured while the trees are in foliage. From the front porch a view of Mrs. M. A. Greene's home (the old Col. Walter home) and several other houses on Chulahoma Avenue may be seen, and in winter part of the square and the town clock tower.

The yard is shaded by walnut, pecan and mimosa trees; and the beautiful flowers that were planted away before the Civil War still bloom, among them jonquils, narcissus, flags, and four kinds of lilies.

A two-acre flower garden was a beautiful addition before the war, but it has disappeared.

Planters of the early years were influenced by different motives as to their plantations. Some skinned the land of its fertility and moved on to fresher fields. Many of these made money but never possessed a home in its truest sense, and the effect was disastrous to the land. Much

¹ This article was reprinted in abridged form in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (November 20, 1930).

² Although Mr. Mickle lists the date at 1830, no titles for any property in the Chickasaw Cession territories could be legally obtained until 1836. See photos, *Southern Tapestry*, 17, 18.

³ Robert Alexander, one of the area's pioneer settlers, kept a diary that is an important source of information about Holly Springs and its Methodist Church.

eroded territory in Marshall County is due to this system.

Mr. Alexander from the first planted for a home for his family and for future generations of his descendants. He planted gardens, orchards and nut bearing trees, besides preserving many native chestnut, walnut and hickory nut trees.

Some distance from the house a spring was dammed and a fishpond constructed amid primordial forest trees. Grape arbors and seats around the banks added to the comfort and pleasure of family and visitors.

SCENE OF HOSPITALITY

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, whose warm, genial personality many of the older citizens delight to recall, dispensed a generous hospitality from their home before and for many years after the War of the Sixties. Often parties of young people from Holly Springs out for an afternoon ride would drop in. In this hospitality they were assisted by their five sons and five daughters of whom Mrs. Dora Tyson of this city alone survives.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tyson and their three children now live at the old home, so that Mrs. Alexander's wish that it might shelter succeeding generations is carried out.¹

A plantation before the war called for a large assembly of buildings, and near the home may be seen the stone foundations of the kitchen, smoke house and other outbuildings, while further out were stables for the carriage horses and riding stock, the ice house and still further the cotton gin, driven by mule power, with accompanying press with the screw, carved out of a single tree, with two long levers reaching from the top.

The slave quarters occupied quite a space and the mule barn, with the pond for water, were properly distant from the house.

Mr. Alexander loved good horses and maintained a private racetrack to try out his own and challenging riders.²

¹ Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Tyson have recently returned to Holly Springs and built a home near the site of the old Tyson Place.

² See photo in Miller-Smith, 87.

The house had its share of the fortunes of war, and being located near the Oxford Road was frequently visited by the Federals. A surprise raid found Jack Alexander at home with no chance of escape. He hid in a closet and his sisters pushed a dresser against the door, concealing it.

Interesting relics in the house are Mr. Alexander's old desk, and old mammy chair in which the ten babies in turn were rocked to sleep,³ and a child's chair made by slave labor.

³ As John W. Blassingame has remarked, "One of the key figures in the white child's socialization was the ubiquitous black mammy to whom he frequently turned for love and security. It was the black mammy who often ran the household, interceded with his parents to protect him, punished him for misbehavior, nursed him, rocked him to sleep, told him fascinating stories, and in general served as his second, more attentive, more loving mother." *The Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum South* (Rev. ed., New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1979): 266.

2.

OLD PRYOR HOME IS A COUNTY LANDMARK.

Builder of "Luconia" a Virginian, Who Married a Niece of President James K. Polk.—Ancestor of Prominent Residents of Holly Springs.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (January 15, 1931).¹ The Pryor plantation house was located in the same Laws Hill neighborhood, as the old Peel house. It was of brick, of the colonial type, with sixteen steps leading up to the pillared porches front and rear.

The ground floor was used as a basement above which rose a story and a half, which the family occupied. There were dormer windows on the roof. It stood in a splendid grove of chestnut trees, but only part of the house is standing today. It is owned now by Pony Snipes.

It was called "Luconia" and was built by Green Pryor, a Virginian, who came to Marshall County in the pioneer days from Tennessee.²

He was twice married, his first wife being a niece of President James K. Polk. Of this union was his oldest son, John P. Pryor, who later became a brilliant journalist on the staff of the antebellum *Memphis Eagle*. After serving throughout the War of the Sixties he did newspaper work in Louisville, Ky., until his death a few years later.

There were two daughters by this marriage, Mary, who married Mr. Woods of Memphis, and Elizabeth, who married Maj. James Alexander of Chulahoma. Maj. and Mrs. Alexander were grandparents of G. Waite McClain of Jackson, Tenn., formerly of Holly Springs.

The two brothers, Dr. and Major Alexander were prominent in the fine old Chulahoma neighborhood from its earlier days until long after the war. None of their descendants live there now, I believe, but many in Tennessee and Arkansas. Two, Mrs. Robert F. Dancy and Mrs. Douglas Baird, live in Holly Springs.

Green Pryor married for his second wife, Martha, daughter of Dr. Alexander. Of this union were two sons, Sam H. and Alexander Pryor, and a daughter, Olivia, who married Dr. Fenner, a prominent physician of Memphis, later of Louisville. Alex Pryor fell early in the war battling for the Confederacy.

MILITARY INSTITUTE CADET

Sam H. Pryor was a cadet at Kentucky Military Institute when the war broke out and went to Virginia with that corps and served that state throughout the war, though he transferred to the 19th Mississippi, then in Virginia, and served with them for the rest of the war. He was wounded several times.

Those Confederate soldiers of the Virginia campaigns, whether native or not, used to "high hat" their comrades of the western army, and I heard an amusing spat between two of them.

The Mississippi-Virginia soldier was rubbing it in on the other when the latter retorted: "The men we fought could shoot as well and yell as well as we could."

Undoubtedly there was a glamour about the Virginia field not experienced in the West. Richmond was only the capital of the Confederacy drawing the big men of the South in all lines, but it was the metropolis of the South with an older culture and civilization.

It was the center for brilliant journalists and writers who could tell in prose and poetry of the war. "Somebody's Men" of the west, second to none as hard riders and fighters, were nevertheless just "Somebody's Men," without the colorful *beau sabreurs* and cavaliers in cultured Virginia, and it had a powerful influence then, much more so than it would now.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² See *Southern Tapestry*, 33, 38.

Returning home after the war Mr. Pryor married Miss Annie Patterson of Alabama, a woman universally beloved for her lovely character. Their children were Lida (Mrs. Robert Dancy), Nina (Mrs. J. W. Raper of Water Valley), both born in the old Pryor home; Jessie (Mrs. Douglas Baird), and Dick who died several years ago.

Mrs. Pryor, who was a member of the Christian Church was largely instrumental in the erection of Mt. Moriah Church near Laws Hill.¹

COURAGE DURING YELLOW FEVER

Another heavy call for courage and sacrifice awaited Sam Pryor in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878. Mrs. Pryor fell an early victim, and after she had been laid away, he returned to the work of ministering to the dying and dead.

Mr. Pryor's love for his children would not admit breaking up the home and he maintained one as long as he lived, and it always had a strong attraction for the young people. It was presided over by Miss Bennie Tipton, now Mrs. Roane, a relative of his wife.

Mr. Pryor was a popular man in town and county, and he served several terms as chancery clerk.

He died in 1900, and the funeral was largely attended by people from town and county. Telegrams and letters of sympathy poured in from old comrades in the arms of the Confederacy, and Masonic brethren.

The body lay in state in the courtroom, with a guard of honor from a military company largely composed of Spanish-American War Veterans. It was a military funeral with the company and his old comrades of Camp Kit Mott, U. V. C. as escort. Three volleys were fired and taps sounded at the grave.

For a few years after his coming to Holly Springs in the early seventies, Mr. Pryor was an attaché of *The South*, then located on the present site of the post office.

¹ This church, erected in 1870 to be shared by the Christian and Baptist denominations, was restored in the 1980s by Mr. William O. Fitch, of Holly Springs, who was reared in the congregation. See *Southern Tapestry*, 160.

3.

MC EWEN HOME LINKED TO HOLLY SPRINGS HISTORY.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (January 29, 1931).¹ Alexander Calvin McEwen, who came here in 1834, may have given this city its name—Holly Springs. He entered business here and shipped in the first bill of merchandise to come to the town, billing it to Holly Springs before the town was laid out.

Mr. McEwen was one of the commissioners to mobilize the Indians and send them to Indian Territory, now known as Oklahoma. I have before mentioned these stories that when my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dabney Minor, moved here in 1836 there were about 6,000 Indians camped on Coldwater Creek, ready to move west.²

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² The story of the settlement of Holly Springs and Marshall County is the story of two migrations. Most of the settlers who arrived after 1836 did not consider the fact that the land they purchased had been taken from the Indians—who through their leaders had assented to very disadvantageous treaties that displaced them from their ancestral lands. Because most of the Chickasaw nation who remained in the region had cast their lot with land traders, most of them found that they were compelled to move to the Indian Territory, located in the southeastern part of the present state of Oklahoma. Many place and surnames among the population there bear testimony to the ties the region shares with North Mississippi. According to the U. S. Census, there were 6,070 individuals in the Chickasaw nation to be removed to Indian Territory, as the first of the Chickasaw lands were sold at public auction in January 1836. Of these, 4,914 were Chickasaws and 1,156 slaves. The courthouse walls were up and churches and schools in operation at Holly Springs before removal of the Indians from Marshall County began. The first five hundred left in a wagon train in June 1837. Removals continued through the summer and autumn, when the Chickasaw agent collected 4,000 into emigrant camps and moved them toward Memphis. As historians Duane Hale and Arrell Gibson described the scene, "The long column of humanity, the train of government wagons, the multitude of horses, dogs, and cats made a remarkable sight. The Indians, according to one observer 'were all most comfortably clad—the men in complete Indian dress with showy shawls tied in turban fashion around their heads—dashing about on their horses, like Arabs...the

A native of Tennessee, Mr. McEwen³ had married Miss Eliza Byers of Washington County, Va., and was living there when he decided to move here. He built a log cabin on the land, possibly the site, of the house that was known in antebellum days as the McEwen house, then Gen. W. S. Featherston's and is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. George M. Buchanan. It is located at the intersection of Gholson Avenue and Craft Street. The later house was also constructed for him.⁴

It was brought by the late Oscar Johnson and added to his park system, which was sold and broken up after his death.

Mr. McEwen formed a partnership with the late John C. Walker and they occupied—probably had constructed—the store three doors west of the Lucas Furniture Company's store.⁵ Mr. McEwen died before my time, but I remember

women also very decently clothed...in calico gowns... & how beautifully they managed their horses, how proud & calm & erect, they sat at full gallop." In November, their party crossed the river at Memphis. Heavy rains and illness impeded the journey, and many died and were buried along the way. A few Chickasaw leaders remained in the area and some gained wealth in the buying and selling of land. However, by 1842, most of these persons had also found their way to Oklahoma—most without the benefit of the government's promised assistance. Duane K. Hale and Arrell M. Gibson, *The Chickasaw*, in Frank W. Porter, ed., *Indians of North America series* (New York: Chelsea House, 1991): 54, 8; see Hubert McAlexander, "The Saga of a Mixed-Blood Chickasaw Dynasty," 289-300; *Southern Tapestry*, 8-10, 24.

³ Alexander Calvin McEwen (1806-1869) was active in all aspects of the town's early life. His name appears as a trustee of the Female Collegiate Institute and also the Literary Institution for boys. At the time of her death Mrs. Eliza Byers McEwen (1807-1892) was the oldest member of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church.

⁴ The McEwen-Featherston Place is located at 166 S. Craft Street. See *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 158; *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 90-91.

⁵ The Lucas Furniture Store was located on the southeast corner of the Square where the present City Café now operates.

Mr. Walker, who was in business there in the eighties. He lived in what in later years was known as the Mosson house, now owned as a home by Oliver Robinson.¹

At that time it was the only house on that square of ground except the Hindman Doxey home, which was built by Mr. Thornton, another early settler, and the maternal ancestor of my friend since boyhood, W. W. Anderson.

IN BANKING BUSINESS

Some time before the war Mr. McEwen was induced to embark in the banking business; the institution was known as the "King-McEwen Bank." Bank failures are no modern experiences, and this bank went "blewy," though through no shady work on the part of Mr. McEwen, who is reputed to have been a man of the strictest integrity.²

He surrendered all he owned, including his home, for the benefit of the bank's creditors. His father-in-law Col. Byers of Washington County, Va., bought the home at the public sale and deeded it to his daughter, an only child, and it followed in that succession as long as it remained in the possession of the Featherstons.

It is probable that my friend, the Hon. Dudley McEwen Featherson (we called him McEwen until he was grown) got his Presbyterian predilections by heredity as much as by choice,³ for his grandfather McEwen was one of the organizers of the Presbyterian Church here in the thirties,⁴

¹ This is the house at 255 E. Falconer Avenue, now known as "Herndon."

² See *It Happened Here*, 90-91; *A Vanishing America*, 58; *Southern Tapestry*, 15.

³ Dudley McEwen Featherston (1865-1941) was the son of the famous Civil War general Winfield Scott and Mrs. Elizabeth McEwen Featherston. His grandfather was Alexander C. McEwen one of the earliest settlers of the town. Featherston was mayor of his city and president of the Bank of Holly Springs. An active church worker, he was clerk of the session in the Presbyterian Church and a commissioner to its General Assembly in 1918. Mrs. Caroline Porter Featherston, a minister's daughter who had studied to be an opera singer in Chicago, New York, and Paris, headed the vocal department at Mississippi Synodical College. *Mississippi, Heart of the South*, 4:511; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 331.

⁴ A. C. and Eliza McEwen were received into the Presbyterian congregation during a remarkable revival of religion in the autumn of 1842, during which forty

and was treasurer of the Church at the time the present structure was erected not long before the war. I have seen his book, methodically kept and every item set down including such entries as So-and-So sent his boy (slave) for so many days work.⁵

The ladies of his family were also active in the work of the church, and his daughter, Miss Elizabeth McEwen, sang in the choir. She married in June 1858 Winfield S. Featherston, a young lawyer of prominence and an ex-congressman, who had come here from Houston, Miss.

Surviving members of the family are: the Hon. D. M. Featherston of Holly Springs, Mrs. Elise Beall of Tulsa, Okla.,⁶ Mrs. Lelia DeNeen of San Antonio, Texas, and Mrs. Eloise Posey of Baltimore.

Gen. Featherson suffered a heavy loss in the yellow fever of 1878, his wife and daughter and son, Miss Georgia and Winfield, being taken. The community suffered with him in the death of such splendid members of the society.

ELECTED TO CONGRESS

Winfield Scott Featherston was born near Murfreesboro, Tenn., and located in the late forties in Houston, Miss., and engaged in the practice of law in the firm of Featherston & Orr. The second congressional district then embraced Chickasaw County and Mr. Featherston was elected to Congress while there. In the resume in *The South Reporter* of January 22 of a copy of *The Mississippi Palladium* of September 19, 1851, it was noted that he was a candidate.

Houston, Miss., is probably an older town than Holly Springs,⁷ and the bar was composed

persons, including many of the town's most prominent settlers, united with the church in a three-week period. *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 73.

⁵ The record book from which this extract came has been lost. The only record of its contents is a citation from *The Holly Springs South* printed elsewhere in these pages (see p. 279).

⁶ For many years a white marble fountain stood on the east side of the courthouse in Mrs. Beall's memory. It is now preserved at the Marshall County Historical Museum. It was erected in 1939.

⁷ Houston, Mississippi, seat of Chickasaw County, was established in 1836 on land donated by a land speculator named Joel Pinson, of Tennessee, on the

of a most remarkable group of great lawyers, statesmen and soldiers in embryo, who were later to make history for Mississippi.

It was a remarkable tribute therefore, to young Featherston, that he should have been chosen by the convention as its candidate with so much brilliant material at hand.

To be elected congressman in those days was a much greater honor then than now, and properly so, for character, ability and courage were called for in greater degree than now. I mean physical rather than moral courage, as politics and public administration were not near so rotten as now.

But young Featherston possessed to a marked degree both moral and physical courage, and needed the latter, for he was pitted in his campaign against Alexander K. McClung, America's deadliest duelist, before whose unerring aim a number of men had fallen on the field of honor.

McClung was the dread of public men in Mississippi, for in his cups he was apt to insult anyone with whom he came in contact, and receiving the challenge gave him the choice of weapons.

The mark of Cain was upon him and he suffered from remorse to such a degree that he advised a friend in case of trouble to throw his pistol away and run rather than take human life.

COLLISION ON THE ROAD

He met his match one day, however. With a friend in a buggy, both drinking, he was drinking furiously on a road out of Jackson, Miss., when they collided with a young countryman driving a load of wood to town. McClung, who was unknown to the countryman, jumped up and began to lash him with the buggy whip, whereupon the young fellow sailed in and gave McClung a good beating with his fists. McClung showed good sportsmanship, and shook hands with him and congratulated him for what he had done.

Mr. Featherston had a narrow escape, for it is said McClung wrote a challenge, but reconsidered and tore it up.

condition that the community be named in honor of his boyhood friend, General Sam Houston.

Houston, Miss., was passed up by the railroad in the early days, and it continued an isolated village of about six hundred inhabitants until the railroads came about twenty-five years ago when it sprang into a live progressive town. It always had a reputation for its educational facilities, and the late W. A. Belk and Dr. T. C. Wynne attended school there.

Other growing towns of the early days attracted Houston's ambitious citizens, and the firm of Featherston & Orr was dissolved, and in 1857 Mr. Featherston went to Holly Springs and Mr. Orr to Columbus, Miss., to become Judge Orr, one of Columbus' foremost citizens.

Soon after Mr. Featherston's arrival here the law firm of Featherston, Harris & Watson was formed, composed of W. S. Featherston, Thomas W. Harris and Richard L. Watson. It was interrupted by the War of the Sixties, all three entering the service, but was resumed again after the "surrender." My acquaintance with them began of course after the war.

It was a strong firm, Gen. Featherston, solid and substantial in the practice of law; Col. Harris, having most remarkable success before a jury; and Mr. Watson in chancery practice, and knowledge of the law.

I cannot learn of Mr. Watson's war record, though from my recollection of him in my youth he was a man who did his duty. Though modest and retiring he always struck me as a strong man who was courageous and dependable under all circumstances. His wife was [the niece] of the late Judge Gordentia Waite. He died in the yellow fever of 1878.

CAPTAIN OF THE HOME GUARDS

Thomas W. Harris went out as captain of the Home Guards and was a colonel at the close of the war. He was a good mixer and very popular, and one of the best criminal lawyers at the old bar. His grandson Harris Gholson, is assistant cashier of the Bank of Holly Springs.

Mr. Featherston organized a company and joined the 17th Mississippi then being mobilized at Corinth, and was elected colonel of the regiment, and the company erected Claudius W. Sears Captain.

Gen. Sears was an officer in the old army and had been sent here as military instructor at old St. Thomas Hall. He was later made a general and gave a leg for the Confederacy. After the war he was for many years a member of the faculty of the University of Mississippi and much beloved by the students. His son, the Rev. P. G. Sears, a prominent Episcopal clergyman of Houston, Texas, was a former rector of Christ Church in Holly Springs.¹

Gen. Featherston's regiment was assigned to Lee's army in Virginia, where he was made a brigadier general. Later Gen. Joseph E. Johnston asked for a skilled brigadier general and Featherston was sent to Mississippi, and took part in the defense of Vicksburg.

He did not surrender at Vicksburg, as his duty was to hold off Grant's army until Pemberton could evacuate Vicksburg. Pemberton did not evacuate Vicksburg and Featherston withdrew his troops and rejoined Johnston. He was in the battles around Atlanta and for a time commanded Loring's division while the latter was sick.

Returning home after the war he was sent to the legislature in 1875 and offered the resolution to investigate Governor Adelbert Ames' administration, and was made chairman of the committee on resolutions to impeach Ames and present them to the senate.

The county convention of 1880, in session, sent a committee to Gen. Featherston to ask him to again accept nomination for the legislature, which he reluctantly did.

He was appointed circuit judge in the eighties by Gov. Lowry, and declined reappointment. He was chosen as one of Marshall County's delegates to the constitutional convention of 1890 and had much to do with shaping that admirable instrument.

¹ Claudius Wistar Sears (1817-1891), was a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, and headed St. Thomas Hall in the years leading up to the Civil War. After serving the Confederacy as a brigadier general, he was professor of mathematics at the University of Mississippi for twenty-four years. His son, the Rev. Peter Gray Sears, was rector of Christ Church from 1889 to 1899. Hamilton, 117; *Southern Tapestry*, 29.

Gen. Featherston died May 28, 1891.²

² Winfield Scott Featherston was born in Rutherford County, Tennessee, August 8, 1820. His parents were natives of Virginia. At an early age he volunteered in the Georgia war with the Creek Indians and distinguished himself for bravery. For a time he was in a brother's store in Memphis, but decided to study law. He served in the U. S. Congress (1847-1851). He moved to Holly Springs in 1857, and spent the rest of his life there. In 1860, he was appointed Confederate ambassador to Kentucky, with a view to persuading that state to secede. His leadership in the Battle of Leesburg won him the rank of Brigadier General, March 4, 1862. He fought in the First and Second Battles of Manassas and the capture of Harper's Ferry. He was wounded in fighting that occurred at Richmond, Virginia. The end of the war found him with General Joseph E. Johnston in North Carolina. He was a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1890. *Dictionary of American Biography*, 6:308; *Memoirs of Mississippi*, 1:721-26; Dunbar Rowland, *Courts, Judges, and Lawyers of Mississippi, 1798-1935* (Jackson: State Department of Archives & History, 1935): 260; *Biographical Dictionary of the Confederacy*, 184-85; *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War*, ed. by Patricia Faust (New York: Harper Perennial, 1991): 255; Hamilton, 104-105; *It Happened Here*, 68-69; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 225; *Southern Tapestry*, 64, 68.

4.

CRAFT-DANIEL HOUSE MONUMENT OF SKILL.

Famous Mansion, Built in 1851 and Recently Rejuvenated, Has Outside Walls of Triple Construction to Insure Comfort Winter and Summer.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (August 21, 1930).¹ The old Hugh Craft house at the corner of South Memphis Street and West Gholson Avenue stands as a monument to the craftsmanship and integrity of builders in the past.

The house was built for Hugh Craft, the founder of the Craft family in Holly Springs, and one of the early as well one of the leading citizens of Holly Springs in antebellum days.²

Mr. Craft was a public-spirited man and took an active part in all matters that were for the betterment of the city. His gifted daughter, Mrs. Helen Craft Anderson, is the only surviving member of the immediate family. His son, the late Maj. Addison Craft, was, it might be said, the advisor of Holly Springs, his counsel being sought in everything from affairs of honor³ to affairs of business.

It is one of the few antebellum houses that remain in possession of the descendants of the builders. Mrs. Fannie Fort Daniel, granddaughter of Hugh Craft, now owns the house and has occupied it as her home for many years. With the exception of a few years the house has been occupied by Mr. Craft or his descendants, and has never passed out of their possession. Children of

the fifth generation now play about the shaded walks.⁴

HOUSES BUILT FOR COMFORT

Hugh Craft was a thorough and practical man and built for the future as well as the present. He wanted a comfortable home, cool in the summer and warm in winter, and it must be remembered that modern equipment, for cooling and heating houses was unknown then.

As a means to both ends the walls were built in triplicate, a brick wall in the center, with lath and plaster on the inside and studding and stucco on the exterior, which kept out the summer's heat and winter's cold.⁵

Summer comfort was further increased by large rooms and lofty ceilings. There was no heating plant, the crude hot air furnace was the

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter* (April 5, 1941).

² Hugh Craft (1799-1867) came to Holly Springs in 1839 from Georgia as an agent for the American Land Company. His office was diagonally across the street from his home, in a building now known as the "yellow fever house." *Southern Tapestry*, 31, 33; see photo, p. 37. His early letters provide interesting information about Holly Springs history and travel.

³ Bertram Wyatt-Brown, historian at the University of Florida, has recently underscored the role of honor in Southern culture. See *Southern Honor: Ethics and Behavior in the Old South* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982).

⁴ A 1941 clipping from *The Memphis Commercial Appeal* notes that "Several years ago, in unpacking old trunks in an outhouse, were found old books, diaries and letters dating back as far as 1818. The letters and diaries tell of parties in the old homes of Holly Springs, including 'Tuckahoe,' family plantation of Dabney Crump of Memphis, who calls his Memphis home by the same name. Trips by stagecoach, boats on the Mississippi, the 'new' horse-drawn railroad cars, and life at popular watering resorts, such as Red Springs, Ga., were discussed. During the Civil War this house served as headquarters for Colonel Murphy, Federal officer here with Grant, who saved the lovely iron fence that surrounds the yard from destruction, with which so many of the old fences met. Etched glass in the doors and blown window panes are an interesting feature of this home, and on one window has been scratched with a diamond: 'Miss Street Heard and Heber Craft, Oct. 11, 1854.' Heber Craft was the son of Hugh Craft, who built this home."

⁵ Chesley Smith recalled that when light switches were first installed about 1920, workers boring into the walls discovered that they were filled with charcoal, presumably for insulation purposes.

only kind known then, and there was a prejudice against them as well as stoves in this section as not being healthful.

The open fire was the thing, but it did not heat a room in real cold weather, but the construction of this house helped wonderfully.

The house was of timber, and all heart timber. Each sill is a solid log, 12 x 12 and over, forty feet in length. The posts that support the roof are cut from solid logs and are over forty feet in length.¹

The stucco of lime and sand that was put on in 1851 was only replaced in April of this year, and the house has required practically no other repairs since it was built².

The stucco put on in April was ivory in color and its delicious coolness amid the setting of green trees was a psychological boon to passers by during the hot spell that followed.

REMINDS ONE OF MT. VERNON

The house is built in the colonial style of architecture, with a veranda on three sides, with box columns supporting the roof. The columns

¹ The Craft-Fort-Daniel Place, located at 184 South Memphis Street, has recently been purchased by Mr. Chelius H. Carter, a preservation architect from Memphis. *Holly Springs South Reporter* (December 12, 2002). See information and photos in *It Happened Here*, 65. Elmo Howell, *Mississippi Back Roads: Notes on Literature and History* (Memphis: Langford, 1998): 126-28; *Historic Architecture in Mississippi, 160-61*; Miller-Smith, 31; Mary Carol Miller, *Lost Mansions of Mississippi* (Jackson: University of Mississippi, 1996): 71-72; and *Southern Tapestry*, 23, 33; see photo, p. 37.

² The following notice appeared in *The South Reporter* (March 27, 1930): "The fact that Mrs. Chesley Daniel is having her residence re-stuccoed, with cement stucco in natural stone color is a reminder that the house is a monument to the skill and thoroughness of workmen in the antebellum days. The old stucco of lime and sand was put there when the house was built in the years 1850-51, for they took time to do good work then. It was built for Hugh Craft, Sr., the grandfather of Mrs. Daniel, and it was undoubtedly built, from drawings through construction under his supervision. The walls of the first floor insure protection against heat or cold, a brick wall with laths and plaster on the inside, and laths and stucco outside. Timber used was all heart, sills 40 feet long and 12 x 12 are of solid piece, and timbers are fastened with oaken pins."

and veranda are of the order of those at Mt. Vernon, Washington's old home.³

The fences surrounding the lot are built on the same substantial lines as the house, an iron fence on a brick base, and except for the painting the ironwork no repairs have been necessary since construction.⁴

There is no particular Civil War history connected with the old Craft home beyond the experience that came to all, but a unique record was penciled on one of the pillars giving the dates of the fifty raids made by the Federals.⁵ It illustrated the methodical turn of the owner.⁶

The Federals did not occupy Holly Springs for any length of time during the war, but made raids from their base in Memphis. On one of their longer stays the house, being conveniently located, was occupied by Col. Murphy of the Eighth Wisconsin as his headquarters.⁷

³ In earlier times, the metal roof of the Craft home was painted red, which perhaps made the comparison to Mount Vernon seem more natural.

⁴ The cast iron gate, guarding the front walk, is unique in Holly Springs. It contains an inset profile of an Indian chief.

⁵ See Bobby Mitchell, "Record of Marshall County Skirmishes May Never Be Completed," *Holly Springs South Reporter* (April 24, 1986).

⁶ Historians do not agree on the number, but most assert that the town changed hands about fifty times. It is said that women, fearful to go to the square if Federal troops were present, would climb the stairs to the gallery of the unfinished Presbyterian Church located just across the street from the Craft mansion, and peer through the open windows to see which flag was flying. *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 189.

⁷ Hugh Craft's daughter later penned memories of Civil War engagements in Holly Springs. Concerning an incident at her family's home on the morning of Confederate General Van Dorn's raid on Holly Springs, December 20, 1862, she wrote: "My sister and I were sleeping in one of the lower rooms. We were awakened about 3:30 by an excited clatter of swords overhead and voices in the adjoining hall and knew that something unusual was taking place....Soon after our yard servant knocked on our window to say, 'the whole town is on fire.' The torch had been applied to the railroad machine shops....and later to the storehouse on the square filled to capacity with General Grant's ammunition and supplies." Helen Craft Anderson, "Recollections of Van Dorn's Raid," reprinted in the *Holly Springs South Reporter* (April 27, 1978). *Southern Tapestry*, 66.

The rejuvenation in the spring of this old antebellum home recalls the part the Craft family and descendants have taken and are still taking to buildup and maintain the better life of the city and it is fitting that the parent home should still

remain in their possession as a monument of their achievement.

5.

NAME 'BONNER HOUSE' STIRS OLD MEMORIES.

Historic Home on Salem Avenue, Associated With Many Romantic Incidents, Now the Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Fred M. Belk.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (September 25, 1930).¹ "Bonner House!" The name recalls pleasant memories scattered over half a century from the mid-fifties. Its people were the happy blending of the best in the North and South, intelligent, cultured, and refined.

This recalls that the city owes much to those who were drawn from the North,² some of whom were Dr. Charles Bonner, and his sister Miss Martha; Col. Walter, the Rev. Dr. J. H. Ingraham, Capt. and Mrs. Mattison, Gen. Sears, Capt. Clark, Col. Tyler, and others of that type who placed the stamp of their intellectuality and character indelibly upon the history of Holly Springs.³

The South with its romance and adventure, and its opportunities, was attractive to the young men of the North, and what more attractive than the Southern belles?

¹ This article was reprinted in abridged form in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (November 20, 1930).

² Other figures in the early history of Holly Springs who came from the North include several teachers and members of its clergy, including the Rev. Francis L. Hawks, Dr. Joseph Holt Ingraham, Dr. Charles S. Dod, and the Rev. Samuel McKinney.

³ Dr. Charles Bonner was born in Ireland, emigrating to Pennsylvania in 1820, where he completed his medical training. He went then to Huntsville, Alabama, and finally to Holly Springs, where he formed a partnership with Dr. Willis M. Lea about 1845. He married Miss Mary Wilson, a planter's daughter, then seventeen years old, whose deceased parents had left her under the guardianship of Dr. Lea. Upon his marriage, Bonner inherited the life of a southern planter, and became, like Dr. Lea, a planter-physician. He was a lecturer in chemistry in the town's Female Institute. Bonner Street, which runs north from the west side of his home, preserves a memory of the family name. Hamilton, 97; *Prodigal Daughter*, 5; *Southern Tapestry*, 49, 64, 71.

The well-known writer, Bill Arp of Georgia, whose father was from the North, said his daughters were always throwing up his Yankee blood to him; until in looking up the maternal ancestry to join the D.A.R.'s the trail led over Mason and Dixon's line.

Bonner House, like all of the old houses on Salem Avenue, had quite an estate for town houses, in this case thirty or more acres, and as with the others much of it has been sold off to meet the demands of the growth of the city.⁴

An architect friend informs me that Bonner House is architecturally correct, and to the layman's eye it is beautiful to see, inside and out. It held its own on an avenue of stately homes.⁵

⁴ As Hodding Carter has remarked, "In 1861, Holly Springs was a small architectural paradise." *A Vanishing America*, 62.

⁵ Dr. Bonner's home has been described by Hubert McAlexander in this way: "A picturesque gate hung between two ancient *bois d'arc* trees formed the entrance to the Bonner estate, an expanse of land on the highest ground in Holly Springs. Set well back from the road at the end of a broad brick walk stood the two-story house. Piercing its brick mass were long gothic windows, and across the front façade ran a delicately filigreed porch of cast iron, which gave to the whole the appearance of a delicate and fanciful valentine. Within, one entered the first of two halls, a wide entry with huge sliding doors on each side. Behind the right set was the parlor, furnished in the fashionable 'French antique' mode; behind the left led to Dr. Bonner's library. For entertaining, both sets of doors were opened, and the front of the house thrown into one grand room. The rest of the house contained a long dining room, various halls, a dressing room, and five bedrooms. To the rear of the building, amid the gardens and orchards planted by Dr. Bonner, were several brick dependencies, including what Sherwood Bonner would recall as 'the pleasantest place in the world,' the 'great wide kitchen, with its roomy fireplace, where the backlog glowed and the black kettle swung.'" See information and photos in *Prodigal Daughter*, 7-8; *Southern Tapestry*, 49, 166; *It Happened Here*, 74-75.

LOCATED ON HIGH GROUND

Located on the highest ground in Holly Springs a good view for miles around may be had. The late W. A. Belk, who lived there in later years, told me that on a clear day with field glasses the houses in LaGrange, Tenn., might be seen.

My first impressions of Bonner House are those of early childhood when I lived on Salem Avenue and are connected with General Ord, shortly after the "surrender" in 1865.

In the army of occupation, Gen. Ord of the Federal forces as assigned to the post at Holly Springs and lived at Bonner House.¹ It was not the harsh occupation of wartime, but a peacetime arrangement with Dr. Bonner.²

So far as I know officers of the army of occupation as well as those sent here in later times

Historic Architecture in Mississippi, 166-168; Mills Lane, *Architecture of the Old South: Mississippi & Alabama* (New York: Abbeville Press, 1989): 160, 162; Conway and Moulder, 26; *A Vanishing America*, 76-77; Wayne Andrews, *American Gothic: Its Origins, Its Trials, Its Triumphs* (New York: Vantage Books, 1975): 98; Miller-Smith, *Marshall County*, 37. The mansion, at 490 E. Salem Ave., now called "Cedarhurst" is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Fred M. Belk Jr.

¹ Under the Congressional Military Reconstruction Acts of 1867, Major General Edward O. C. Ord was appointed U. S. Commander of the Fourth Military District, comprising all of Mississippi and Arkansas (one of the five districts into which the Confederacy was divided). Based in Holly Springs, he proceeded to register a new electorate, which included Negro males and excluded whites who had served in public positions before the war and who subsequently violated their oaths of office by supporting the Confederacy.

² Dr. Bonner, who had directed the town's military hospital during the period when the Confederate armies were active in the area, saw advantages in peace. On the Sunday after occupation troops arrived, he rode to the Federal camp and escorted the colonel and other officers to church. No doubt the gesture eased the way for his rector, who had probably not yet comfortably resolved the issue of reinstating the Prayer Book's intercessions for the President of the United States. See *Prodigal Daughter*, 17. Cora Watson recorded details of the incident in her diary on May 14, 1865: "Dr. Bonner and Mr. [E. D.] Frost went out to the camp and escorted the Yankee colonel and another officer in to church. Episcopal and Methodist churches full of them, none in ours [the Presbyterian]."*It Happened Here*, 76; *Prodigal Daughter*, 17; *Civil War Women*, 125.

from New Orleans for the summer were disposed to be friendly, and this was reciprocated in part by the citizens, though of course bitterness from the recent war was strong.³

In the mid-sixties, when Gen. DeTrobriand came with headquarters battalion and the band there was much gaiety with a weekly hop at the Masonic Hall, alternatively by the military and the citizens; the military band played for both.

The rank and file never bothered citizens, even on the drunks that followed payday, which came then every three months. Some local toughs who preyed on them while drunk were beaten up.

One of these was a picturesque character named Clark. He had been a Federal soldier in the Civil War and was captured by Capt. Ed Crump's company of Morgan's command. Favorable impressions were mutual and on his request he was permitted to enlist and served with Morgan for the rest of the war and came to Holly Springs at its close with the local Morgan's men.

One unit of the army sent here was fresh from the West, and had buffalo robes to sell at \$10 apiece and told tales of Indian fighting. The troops that had relieved them only a few weeks before were badly cut up by Capt. Jack and his Modoc braves in the Black Hills.

To go back to Gen. Ord, I never saw him afoot, but he was a commanding figure on horseback. He kept about six horses, a pair of carriage horses and the rest saddlers. Afternoons I would see the party ride by—Gen. Ord, his daughter, Birdie, and Miss Ruth Bonner, who was subsequently Mrs. David McDowell. Birdie Ord married an officer in the Mexican army and their baby was dubbed the International Kid.

FAMILY OF CHARMING FOLKS

Dr. Charles Bonner and his family were charming people and Bonner House was a proper

³ Although troops did not occupy Holly Springs for sustained periods during the war, a U. S. force consisting of three companies was stationed in the city beginning in May 1865. The men camped around the old St. Thomas Hall, the city's military school for boys. Ten years later there was still a garrison of 200 in the city. By this time there were only two other garrisons in Mississippi—one at Vicksburg with 100 soldiers and the other at Jackson with 120. "Reconstruction in Mississippi," 173-174.

setting for them. They were prominent in the church and social affairs of the town and Bonner House was a center of culture and refinement.¹ Dr. Bonner and his only son, Sam, died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878.

"Sherwood Bonner," the pen name of Mrs. Kate Bonner McDowell, gave Bonner House its greatest glory. She was the close friend and for several years secretary of the poet Longfellow, and was an authoress of national fame.²

Possessing a most gracious manner, a queenly figure with a mass of golden hair, brilliant in conversation, she was an ideal hostess for such a home.

About thirty years ago [1903] the late W. A. Belk bought the place from Mrs. Lillian McDowell Hammond, only daughter of Sherwood Bonner, who was then living in Memphis. Mr. Belk changed the name to "Cedarhurst" and it has remained in the family ever since. With Mr. Belk the house took on a political atmosphere and many prominent contemporary politicians were entertained there.

Since the death of Mr. and Mrs. Belk and the marriage of their daughter, "Cedarhurst" has been the bachelor home of their sons Dean and Fred M. Belk.

But what is a home without a woman, and it is pleasant news that Mr. and Mrs. Fred M. Belk

returning from their honeymoon will live there and "Cedarhurst" will again have a mistress, and one, from those who know, who will wear the honors easily and graciously.

¹ Dr. Bonner's collection of books was said to be among the best in town. *Prodigal Daughter*, 26.

² Katharine Sherwood Bonner (1849-1883), was the first Marshall County writer to gain a national audience since the Rev. Joseph Holt Ingraham, rector of Christ Church (1858-1860). Her first published story appeared in *The Boston Ploughman* while she was still in her teens. Later she contributed frequently to *Harper's Magazine*, *Youth's Companion*, and other publications. Her marriage at twenty-one to Edward McDowell, to whom she bore a daughter, was not successful, and after he failed in a Texas business venture, she went in 1873 to Boston, where she was closely associated with the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. At his suggestion she wrote the Southern tales for which she is best known. Her one full-length novel, *Like Unto Like* (1878) appeared in 1878. See Hubert Horton McAlexander, *The Prodigal Daughter: A Biography of Sherwood Bonner* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1981); also information and photos in *A Vanishing America*, 71-72; Miller-Smith, 96; *Mississippi Home-Places*, 88-89; and *Southern Tapestry*, 70, 79.

Views are great assets to a home, and they have them, from every door and window, whether the trees in the grounds or the range of hills to the west with the intervening country.

The building of the Old Clapp house in the mid-fifties marked the peak of antebellum prosperity.¹

Marshall County settlers were a handpicked lot, subsequent history proved this. They began coming around 1836 and were chiefly from Virginia and the Carolinas, with some fine people from New York and the New England states. Most of them were of English or Scotch-Irish descent.

They found a fertile, virgin soil and prospered, but at first had to live under pioneer conditions. They prospered and in the fifties began to build or plan homes in keeping with their improved estate. All of the fine brick antebellum homes in the city were constructed then.

There was much public building done about that time, the Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopal churches, a courthouse, a three story Masonic building, a three story brick hotel, the Magnolia Hotel, with a wealth of iron fretted balconies, and so on. Holly Springs was up to the minute.

BUILT FOR JUDGE J. W. CLAPP

The Clapp house was built for Judge J. W. Clapp, a prominent member of the bar, which numbered such men as Judge A. M. Clayton, Judge J. W. C. Watson, Judge Trotter, Charles Thomas, Chalmers and other legal giants.

¹ It is often assumed that the builders of the great antebellum mansions of Holly Springs acquired their fortunes through the planting of cotton, but many, like Clapp, were lawyers and investors in the Mississippi Central Railroad, which multiplied the area's wealth several times over. As Hodding Carter has observed, "The years from 1855 to the beginning of the war were those during which many of the museum-piece homes of Holly Springs were built. White-columned Georgian, or iron-laced and Gothic, in respectful admiration of Sir Walter Scott, they added a magnificent supplement to the simple architectural beauty of English basement-type cottages and large clapboard-covered log houses of ten and twenty years earlier." *A Vanishing America*, 62.

Building material was plentiful, cheap, and of the best, and the house was so constructed. The grounds around the house then contained thirty acres.

Judge Clapp's family was popular in society and the parlors and halls witnessed many social gatherings. Judge Clapp moved to Memphis shortly after the war and his son Lucas Clapp, became the first mayor Holly Springs contributed to Memphis; Edward Hull Crump being the other.

Jim House, a picturesque character² here before and after the war, who was bitten by a build-

² James J. House made a fortune during the Civil War running the Federal blockade. Cora Harris Watson, an ardent Confederate partisan. From her foster father's home in Covington, Tennessee she wrote that she "disliked having to trade with those who did business with the Yankees, but sometimes compromise was necessary. On August 26, 1864 she opined that: "Mr. R. has a cunning, sleek, money-loving face. While his superiors are fighting and dying for our country every day, he is staying at home speculating. I felt the supremest contempt for him. But there are only two ways for me to get anything to wear—to compromise my principles and perjure my soul by going and swearing allegiance to a government which from the inmost depths of my heart I hate, or to be polite and smiling to a speculator and get him to do me the favor to get them—of the two evils I choose the lesser." The next winter she recorded these words about the results of one of James J. House's blockade-running expeditions, "Friday, January 13, 1865: Soon after Sister took in school, Betsy came over to tell us that Mr. House had a store in town, with all sorts of nice things for sale for Confederate money. I went in and told Sister, and the children persuaded her to let Eddie (who had finished reciting) go down and see what he had. He and Johnnie went. They came back with an account of the rush to buy, which quite amused me. Johnnie bought a pound of candy for \$5.00 and 'treated us.' Eddie and Johnnie went back soon to get some more, but found the merchants had shut up shop, having sold almost enough to break them. Tomorrow they will sell for 'Yankee currency.'" Some months later, she wrote, "Thursday, January 26, 1865: This evening I got Eddie to go down to Mr. House's—he having just returned from Memphis with a stock of goods—and buy me a pair of shoes, beautiful ones of glove kid, buttoned up and trimmed with patent leather—very cheap, too, only \$10. I sent \$2 more down by Eddie and bought a treat for us all, especially the little ones. Mrs. Venable came in while we were enjoying it, and I had an opportunity to gratify Stell—whose kindness I would like to make some return for—by sending her some nuts and candy, which are such rarities that we enjoy them as we never did be-

ing bug, next owned it, but saw no reason to attempt to improve on it.

He built the Schuyler House, now a part of the Traveler's Inn.¹ He bought the Nelson home, an ugly brick house on College Avenue, remodeled it, added rooms and had the walls stuccoed. He put in a bathroom—something unusual in those days—and put a fountain with a large basin in front. Water for bath and fountain was pumped by hand from a cistern.

It was a beautiful home, and is now known as the McGowan Place. Mr. House lived there for a few years and moved to Jackson, Tenn.²

fore." That spring, she reported that when collecting supplies to send south in exchange for corn and meat, the ladies purchased coffee, which "Mr. House kindly sold us at the Memphis price (.45), and adding to it small contributions of coffee which had come in, we had a sack of coffee weighing eighty pounds." *Civil War Women*, 73, 83-84, 113.

¹ The Schulyler House stood at the corner of Memphis Street and Falconer Avenue, across from the present J. F. Brittenum & Sons Funeral Home and the Freeman Barber Shop.

² In 1870, House bought the J. H. Nelson Place at what is now 390 E. College Avenue from his widow, known to-day as "Grey Gables," and enlarged and remodeled it. His young daughter Leonora had been school in Petapsco, Maryland, and while there saw a place which she liked and when she returned to Holly Springs, she persuaded her father to duplicate the house for her. House lived there a few years, then moved to Jackson, Tenn. It was the only postwar mansion in Holly Springs to compare with houses erected before the war. House added running water, making this the first private house in Holly Springs to have a bathtub with running water. The wooden tub was a square, zinc-lined affair, with brass fittings. Water was collected in large vats in the attic and flowed by gravity to the bathroom and a fountain in the yard. The reservoirs required two workers to fill. One pumped, while the other stood lookout in the attic, to warn the pumper on the ground when the vats were full. The bathtub is displayed to-day in the Marshall County Historical Museum. The house was later owned by W. A. Roberts, whose country estate had been commandeered by General Sherman for his residence. Mr. Roberts' daughter married W. Irwin McGowan, of Waterford, and their descendants lived in the home for over half a century. After the death of the McGowan descendants, the ten acres surrounding the house were sold to the Holly Springs School District, and "Grey Gables" became the home of the Holly Springs Garden Club. After that it was owned by the Fred Swaney family. To-day, furnished with what has been called the South's finest collections of antiques and porcelain, "Grey Gables" is the residence of Dr. J. A. Hale.

Gen. A. M. West of Holmes County, president of the old Mississippi Central Railroad (now the Illinois Central) bought the Clapp house, and it again became a center of hospitality and social activity. L. A. Smith, Sr., is a grandson of Gen. West and his early life was spent there.³

H. S. Dancy and Mrs. Amelia Lacey were subsequent owners in turn. Mr. Fant bought it from Mrs. Lacey.

So the old house has fallen into kindly hands and will remain one of the show places in Holly Springs.

South Reporter (Nov. 20, 1931); *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 24; See information and photos in *It Happened Here*, 27-28; *Prodigal Daughter*, 41; *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 94-95; *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 169-70; Miller-Smith, *Marshall County*, 40. [Hubert H. McAlexander], "Grey Gables" (undated pamphlet, privately published); Imogene H. Farnsworth, "Grey Gables" (undated pamphlet, privately published); and *Southern Tapestry*, 49, 153-54, 60.

³ See *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 162-63.

7.

ATTIC WALLS OF FANT HOME DIVULGE HISTORICAL SECRET.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (February 27, 1941). One of the traditional stories connected with the Fant Home was verified recently when the house was insulated and the workmen found tucked between the walls in the attic a pistol holder, saddle bags, and two cartridge cases with "C. S. Arsenal, Baton Rouge, Louisiana" on the side of the boxes.

This must mean that the articles belonged to some person who lived during the War Between the States when the cartridges were made in the Confederate States Arsenal. These articles will be on display at headquarters during the pilgrimage here in April.

The story that has been handed down by the older inhabitants and seems to be verified by these articles was concerning Judge Jeremiah Watkins Clapp, who built the home with slave labor before the war.¹

¹ According to a travel diary that Clapp methodically kept, on one occasion in 1863, when returning from Richmond, he reached Holly Springs with great difficulty. With U. S. troops in possession of the Pontotoc Road, he moved through the fields and woods at right angles to the road. According to his journal, he stopped at one house where he obtained breakfast, and then proceeded "with a view of giving information to our troops, but found myself in the predicament of the man who fled from the lion and a bear met him, for I was challenged by one of our pickets, who had his gun drawn on me and took me for a spy, and was as he said in the act of shooting me." Clapp persuaded the young man to take him to his commander, who accepted Clapp's credentials and apologized for the picket's conduct. Clapp arrived home safely, only to discover that Holly Springs was occupied by soldiers. When he entered the city he was recognized by U. S. officers and men were sent to arrest him. Clapp told his diary that: "I took refuge in the house of a near neighbor, Mr. Nelson [who owned the house now known as "Grey Gables," on East College Avenue] who helped me up into the loft and covered the entrance with a piece of furniture. The day was warm and the heat of my hiding place almost unendurable, but upon reflection I concluded that it was more tolerable than a Yankee prison and submitted to the roasting until the danger was over." *Memoranda of*

Judge Clapp was a distinguished lawyer and statesman and a member of the Confederate Congress. Riding home on horseback from the Confederate Congress, he reached Holly Springs when the Federal soldiers commanded by General Grant were making their headquarters here.

When he entered the town he was recognized by some of the Federal officers and a detachment of soldiers was sent to capture him. Judge Clapp had to think fast, so, as he was a small man, he decided to hide in the carved capital of the Corinthian pillar of his home. He felt that he must have as much space as possible, so he took off his belt with its pistol holder, loaded his pistol and left the saddle bags, pistol holster and cartridge casts hidden in the wall.

He arranged a rope, that was also found in the capital of the pillar, so that he could let himself down in the pillar if necessary and climb up to escape when the enemies left. The capital of the pillar could be entered only from this attic.²

the Travels of Judge J. W. Clapp, 58-61. John D. Williams Library, University of Mississippi

² By the record of his journal, Clapp had returned home after a long absence on a mule named "Beck." "The 'Yanks' were engaged in a fight with our troops in the street fronting my house when we were at dinner and the first intimation we had was the report of firearms and the clatter of horses' feet. I, of course, lost my appetite and without sticking upon 'the order of my going,' left by the back door as the nearest place of concealment, made my way into an adjoining lot where the weeds were very thick and tall and lay there panting with heat and thirst until near sunset, and the next morning about sunrise whilst I was still in bed, my son Will came dashing into the room with the exclamation—"The Yankees are in the yard and have got Beck!" Of course I lost no time in getting out of bed, but what to do was the question. My clothes were on a chair at the bedside, but I had no time to put them on. A servant girl stuck my boots up the chimney and put my watch in her bosom and my wife disposed in some way of my hat and clothes, and as I could not venture outside, I made my way to the attic or garret in my night apparel, and in looking anxiously about for a hiding place it occurred to me to get inside one of the large iron capitals that finished the columns to my front porch. Here I was completely concealed, but

When the soldiers searched the house Judge Clapp was not found. He lived here several years after the war closed and was a leading member of the Presbyterian Church. Later he moved to Memphis where he practiced law, and [his son] was mayor of Memphis, serving 1893-95 and from 1895-98.

When Judge Clapp moved to Memphis he sold this home to Brig. Gen. A. M. West and it was on the iron balcony in front that he accepted the nomination for vice president of the United States.

could hear the Yankees riding on the pavement in the front yard and talking, and supposing they knew I was at home and had come on purpose to capture me, and would set the house on fire if I did not make my appearance, my feelings at the time may better be imagined than described. Will, however, very adroitly managed to get rid of them and save Beck, and I was after a while able to leave my place of concealment."

8.

CHARLES DEAN BUYER OF HISTORIC MANSION.

Mayor Purchases for His Home Walter G. Thompson Place, Which Was General Grant's Military Headquarters During the Civil War.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (June 20, 1929). Mayor Charles N. Dean has become the owner of the Walter G. Thompson Place on Salem Avenue and will occupy it as a home in the near future.

The place was sold Saturday noon under a trustees' sale for the Bank of Holly Springs and was bought in by the bank for \$4,000, there was only the one bid. Later the bank sold the place at a private sale to Mayor Dean. The house cost \$60,000 to build in antebellum days, a much larger sum then than now. It sold at a private sale for \$2,000 about thirty years ago but times were hard then.

Will Henry Coxe, one of a wealthy family of planters in the Chulahoma neighborhood, had the house built for a town house in the mid-fifties. He was grandfather of Mrs. Lily Coffey who now lives in "Galena" a few miles from Chulahoma, one of the antebellum homes of the Coxe family—a family prominent in Georgia, who came to Marshall County in the early days.¹

The most noteworthy historical fact in connection with the house is that it was the official headquarters of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at the time during the War Between the States when he was massing here his army, for his descent upon Vicksburg.

Gen. Van Dorn's brilliant dash into Holly Springs and the destruction of the vast amount of army supplies here caused Gen. Grant to change his plan of campaign and proceed against Vicksburg by the Mississippi River.

While the Coxe Place was Gen. Grant's office building, so to speak,² he and his family

occupied as a residence the home of the late Col. H. W. Walter on Chulahoma Avenue, now occupied by Mrs. M. A. Greene.

Gen. Grant was better liked by the people of Holly Springs than any Federal Commander who operated through here. He was considerate of the people as the exigencies of the war permitted.

He listened to their troubles, helped them when he could, and readily granted guards to protect private homes.

Prosperity had come to planters and townsmen of Marshall County and Holly Springs by the mid-fifties and a building program was started to supplant the modest houses that served while their fortunes were being acquired with stately homes. This program crystallized into the completion of a few fine houses in and around Holly Springs, when the Civil War broke it up.

In town, on Salem Avenue there were built the Judge J. W. Clapp home,³ now occupied by Lester G. Fant; the Robert McGowan house, now occupied by S. R. Crawford;⁴ the Will Henry Coxe Place;⁵ the Dr. Charles Bonner Place, now the Belk Place; the Wynne Place, now occupied

diary August 31, 1864. She wrote that: "I walked with Aunt Mollie and Miss Sally McCarroll and Bettie up to Mr. Cox's to see his house. The Yankees took up some of the tiles out of his porch and it will soon be ruined." *Civil War Women*, 43.

³ The Clapps and Coxes were friends and had made an extensive Eastern tour in 1853. But they had their great houses constructed in differing architectural modes. The Clapp Place, a refined blend of Greek and Italianate styles, was sited close to the street on a thirty acre lot, while the Coxe home and its dependencies, all flamboyant Gothic, were set back behind a massive cast iron fence identical to one at the U. S. Military Academy in West Point. *Southern Tapestry*, 49, 57; see photo, p. 60.

⁴ The house that to-day is known as "Montrose."

⁵ The house now known as "Airliewood."

by John Sowell;¹ and the Dr. Pointer Place (the old oil mill lot).

The last became Bethlehem Academy after the war,² and was later bought by the Rev. P. G. Sears in a revival of St. Thomas Hall. The buildings were destroyed by fire in 1898. Considering house and grounds, it was one of the handsomest homes in the city.³ All of these Salem Avenue homes were surrounded by large acreage.

The Col. H. W. Walter Place on Chulahoma Avenue was another fine house and grounds of the period. The two Martin houses on hills northwest and southwest of the city were fine country homes. Col. William Lumpkin had planned the most pretentious home in the county and the two-story walls just completed when the Civil War came. It was never completed.

The Coxe Place on Salem Avenue was the most pretentious of those completed. The acreage was larger than it is today, the grounds were landscaped and the large stable and outhouses were in keeping with the mansions. The house is of Gothic style with large rooms and high ceilings. The marble mantels for the fireplace were made to order in Italy. It contained the first bathroom with running water in the city, and had its own gas plant for lighting the houses and stable. The stable was destroyed by fire.⁴

Mr. Coxe died soon after the war⁵ and Col. Dixon Comfort Topp of Grenada County bought

and moved here.⁶ Dr. W. C. Elliott bought it many years ago and had a sanitarium there. Walter Thompson succeeded the Elliotts in ownership.

During the lean years of the nineties these fine places had a low market value, people were not able to keep them up and several changed hands at from two to three thousand dollars.

¹ Photographs of these homes may be seen in *Scenic South Magazine* (March-April 1969).

² Bethlehem Academy survived until the 1880s.

³ See photo of the Pointer Place in *Southern Tapestry*, 61. The American Pacific Manufacturing Co., 520 East Salem Avenue, is now located on this property.

⁴ *Architecture of the Old South*, 160, 163. Emma Finley, who lived out in the country at a plantation called "Woodland," referred to the Coxe Place in her diary, August 29, 1858, writing that "We came home for dinner & drove round by the Clapp's & Coxe's-beautiful houses they are- wouldn't object to possessing similar ones." *Our Pen Is Time*, 19-20, 28. Similarly, on January 1, 1859, Dr. W. M. Lea had written to his brother in North Carolina, describing Clapp's house as "a splendid mansion" and said that Will Coxe had put up another one. Cited in *Southern Tapestry*, 48, 160-61; see photos, pp. 57, 119; also Miller-Smith, 36-37.

⁵ Will Henry Coxe, despondent after the war, was killed as he drunkenly tried to force his horse to take

him up the stairs to his mansion. See *Southern Tapestry*, 68.

⁶ Dixon Comfort Topp, a planter who came to Holly Springs after the war, purchased the Coxe Place on Salem Avenue that had been Grant's military office during the Vicksburg campaign. Topp had survived the war with his fortune intact, but after the war he suffered financial distress. To relieve his poverty, Col. Topp followed the example of his neighbor across the street, Dr. Charles Bonner, a decade before and agreed to another Federal occupation of the Coxe place, this time taking as a boarder in the summer of 1875 the commander of the U. S. forces in Holly Springs. This latter arrangement (as was General Grant's occupancy in 1862) was voluntary and beneficial to the house's owner.

9.

MAYOR DEAN'S HOME LONG A SHOW PLACE.

Mansion on Fifteen-Acre Tract on Salem Avenue Built in 1859
by Will Henry Coxe.—Grant's Official Headquarters During War.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (August 7, 1930).¹ Since it was built about 1859 the Will Henry Coxe Place on Salem Avenue has been one of the show places of Holly Springs. Mayor Charles N. Dean now owns the property and makes his home there.

The house is said to have cost \$40,000, and building could be done much cheaper than now, with the best materials plentiful and cheap.

It is designed in the perpendicular Gothic style, which was observed in all particulars. The halls above and below are sixteen feet wide and run the length of the house. There are four rooms on each floor, large and high-pitched with a wing at the back in which are located a beautiful dining room, with pantries and kitchen.

The two parlors on the west side are connected by an archway, the rear and smaller room having a bay window. One or two more rooms were added to the rear of the house by later owners. The windows and veranda are in keeping with the Gothic style, and add much to the beauty of the house. The present veranda was designed by W. W. Anderson, the old one having been removed years ago.²

So far as conveniences went the house was well-provided for that time. It was piped for gas throughout, and the chandeliers were artistic in hammered iron. The bathroom with running water was so far as known the first installed in Holly Springs. Water for it was pumped by hand. A system of call bells from all rooms was also arranged, with old-fashioned bell cords.

PLACE OF FIFTEEN ACRES

The grounds which Mr. Coxe bought in 1858, contained about fifteen acres the front of it covered with large forest trees, many of which have yielded to time and the elements, but enough are left to give beauty to the place.

Much landscaping was done, almost wholly in the way of trees and shrubs. Small cedars, kept properly trimmed, formed hedges for the drive.

The tall iron fence and large gates are not only a pleasing part of the building scheme of the place but a monument to the antebellum industry of the city, for they were made in Holly Springs.³

The panels of the fence carried spear heads which were broken off during the War of the Sixties. Someone from Holly Springs while in Ohio a few years ago met an elderly man who said that he and another young Federal soldier in a spirit of boyish wantonness had knocked them off, and he was sorry to have marred the beauty of the fence.

Jones, McElwaine & Co. at whose foundry in Holly Springs the iron fence and gate were made, did considerable business in the Mid-South, their most notable work being the three-story Morosque Building in New Orleans, which occupied a block facing Lafayette square. It was destroyed by fire about thirty years ago, but previously had

¹ This article was reprinted in abridged form in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (November 20, 1930).

² See photos in *Southern Tapestry*, 57; Miller-Smith, 36.

³ The statement that the iron fence and gates surrounding "Airliewood" were manufactured in Holly Springs is a legend of long standing. The massive cast iron fence (identical to one at the U. S. Military Academy in West Point), with massive gates, is the work of the firm of Wood & Parrot, of Boston, Massachusetts. *Southern Tapestry*, 49; see photo, inside cover and p. 137.

been listed in the guidebooks as one of the sights of New Orleans.

During the Civil War the foundry cast cannon¹ and manufactured small arms for the Confederacy. Prior to the Civil War and during part of it they did considerable work for the Mississippi Central Railroad, which ran through Mississippi with general offices in Holly Springs. It is now the Illinois Central Road.

The original front of the place on Salem Avenue included the site of the John Gray² and Pulliam homes. The large stable was located back of John Gray's house and its architecture conformed with the Gothic style of the house, as did the kitchen and servants quarters in the rear of the house.

GEN. GRANT'S HEADQUARTERS

Gen. Grant made the house his official headquarters while collecting supplies here for his proposed campaign against Vicksburg.³ During this time Gen. Grant used Col. H. W. Walter's house, now Mrs. M. A. Greene's home on Chulahoma Avenue for his family residence.

¹ Evidence cannot now be found that cannon were produced at the Holly Springs foundry.

² This is the Victorian house at 395 E. Salem Avenue, built by General A. M. West for his daughter Caroline for a wedding present. She never used it because her husband died of yellow fever in 1878. Beautifully restored, it is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. B. McClatchy.

³ Mrs. Grant recalled the place as "a beautiful Italian villa," and related that the only souvenir she ever brought from the South was a wineglass given her by William H. Coxe. By her account: "When General Grant evacuated Holly Springs and went to Memphis, as we were leaving the house, I asked my maid if she had put Master Jesse's silver cup in the satchel. She replied, 'no, ma'am, I forgot and left it in the trunk.' And the trunks had already gone. I said to her, 'You are careless. What am I to do?' Colonel Coxe overheard this, stepped back to his dining room, and returned with a beautiful slender-stemmed wineglass, saying, 'Will this answer, Mrs. Grant?' To my demur, not wishing to break his set of glass, he replied, 'Ah, no! Keep it as a souvenir of the house. I only wish I could add to it a bottle of rich, old wine, but mine is all gone.' And that slender, little pink glass was the only souvenir I ever brought from the South." John Y. Simon, ed. *The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, n.d.): 109. "Airliewood" has recently been purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Overstreet of Germantown, Tennessee.

Gen. Van Dorn's dash into Holly Springs and the destruction of the vast store of supplies cause Grant to change his plans of approach to Vicksburg by rail and go by the Mississippi River.

Will Henry Coxe was a member of a family who came from [Oglethorpe County, Georgia] and settled near Chulahoma; there were several brothers and all large planters. Mr. Coxe lived at "Galena" plantation, now the home and owned by his granddaughter, Miss W. H. Lacey.⁴

In the hard times of five-cent cotton all property was low and such places went begging. Logan Walker bought the place for \$2,500. Later owners were Dr. W. C. Elliott, now of Jacksonville, Fla., and the late Walter G. Thompson. Mayor Dean succeeded Mr. Thompson in ownership.

The Mayor and Mrs. Dean inaugurated a custom last year which establishes the friendly nature of their home when they illuminated one of their holly trees during Christmas week for the town to enjoy with their little son, Charles.⁵

⁴ See *Lost Mansions of Mississippi*, 69-71; *Southern Tapestry*, 28, 43; *It Happened Here*, 60-61.

⁵ Charles Nunnally Dean Jr. (1927-1983) grew up to become the leader of the historic preservation movement in Marshall County. *Southern Tapestry*, 7, 49, 159, 160; see photo, p. 162.

10.

THE PINES, LANDMARK OF CIVIC IMPORTANCE.

Charming Old Residence of the Craft Family Has Had Large Share in Life of the City Since Its Construction in 1871 by Maj. Craft.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (July 31, 1930).¹ The Pines, the charming home of Misses Lizzie and Cornelia Craft, on Craft Street, does not hark back to antebellum days, but was built for their father, the late Maj. Addison Craft, in 1871.²

Maj. Craft was then living in the old Roger Barton house, now the home of Mrs. J. C. Totten, Sr. The location of the Barton house with its front north, away from Craft Street, is puzzling to the people of today.

When the Barton house was built it fronted on a well-traveled street that is now the alley by the Craft residence which occupies what was probably part of the old Barton front yard.

The old Shuford home, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Finley, is another instance of the changed current of travel. When the house was built what is now Falconer Avenue extended east to the railroad station and was one of the chief arteries between the square the "depot."³

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter* (November 20, 1930 and April 5, 1941).

² The house, located at 251 South Craft Street, is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Farnsworth. The street's name, of course, honors the Craft family. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 219; *Southern Tapestry*, 70.

³ The house, erected in 1859-1860 across from the park surrounding the Holly Springs Female Institute, was built by Martha Reese (Mrs. Egbert Rufus) Jones. Located at 285 East Falconer Avenue, the house was known for many years as the "Shuford Place," as Dr. Franklin Brevard Shuford married a daughter of the house, Miss Reese Jones. The house was later purchased by George J. Finley (1838-1910), who named it "Woodland" for his father's country plantation. It later became the home of the Thomas Finley family, in whose possession it remained until 1998, when it was willed to the National Audubon Society and now serves as the administrative office for its Mississippi operations. See "Some Historic Homes of Mississippi," 344-45; Hamilton, 27; *The Pelican Guide to Old Homes of Mississippi*, Vol. II (Gretna,

FALCONER STREET CLOSED

In the early seventies Jim House arranged with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to extend College Avenue east to the railroad station and close East Falconer and give him the land in exchange.⁴

The old Nelson home, which Mr. House remodeled and changed the front to College Avenue, fronted west on a street that ran over to Salem Avenue,⁵ but which has been absorbed by property owners.¹

La.: Pelican, 1984): 99. The house was the subject of the only local scene to be painted by Holly Springs artist Kate Freeman Clark, mentioned elsewhere in these pages (see p. 99); see photo in *Southern Tapestry*, 163.

⁴ House operated a six-horse, fifty-passenger bus from a stable on the south side of the town square out to the depot. The bus was often forced to detour by way of Salem Avenue on account of mud on Van Dorn Avenue, or Depot Street, as it was then called. *It Happened Here*, 28.

⁵ The closing of streets and odd orientation of houses, including "Grey Gables," "Greenwood" on South Craft Street, "White Pillars," the McCarroll Place, etc., bears witness to the fact that several of the earliest homes were built before the present grid of streets was arranged, and that changes have been made in the street plan of the city through the years, e.g., the closing of Falconer Avenue out to the depot. Street names have also been changed, and the numbering system has been revised several times. The southern portion of Craft Street was once known as Oxford Street, as well as the street now known as Memphis Street. (Evidently what was called Oxford Street or Road extended from the courthouse south down Memphis Street, turned west at Carrington Mason's house, and turned south at the William F. Mason place.) Van Dorn Avenue was once known as Church or Depot Street, South Center Street was sometimes called Tipah Road, and the western part of College Avenue was once called Hernando Road. West Street (honoring the memory of A. M. West who owned the Clapp-Fant house—now called "Athenia"), was earlier known as the Experiment Station Road. Center Street was one of

If the Craft residence has no antebellum history it has had more than its share in the life of the city since its construction.

For many years Maj. Craft was the unofficial host of the city and many notable men and women were entertained there, among them Adlai Stevenson, vice-president in Cleveland's second term. Vice-president Stevenson was a college mate of both Maj. and Mrs. Craft at "Old Center" in Kentucky.²

It has been throughout a home of culture and refinement, a social center for those ideals that make for a better city.³

The adoption of "The Pines" as a name for the house was a return to pretty custom that obtained in the old days giving a name to town house or plantation. It is "high hat," if you please, but a custom so charming that it should be adopted on its merit and not damned through prejudice.⁴

NAMES OF OLD PLACES

The old Salem neighborhood went in strong for the custom in naming their plantations. There was "Snowdoun," of the Govans,⁵ "Woodlawn,"

the first streets to be named. It is mentioned by name in the Board of Police minutes, June 7, 1836—when the square was laid out. Many of the streets do not seem to have received regular names until perhaps the 1920s or later, and many locals still maintain a casual attitude toward the official names of the various thoroughfares. Here it might also be helpful to note that almost all of the old houses once were surrounded by much larger acreages than is the case at present (see also p. 231).

¹ This is the house now known as "Grey Gables," referred to elsewhere in these pages.

² Frances Breckinridge Young (Mrs. Addison) Craft, was the daughter of the Rev. Dr. John Clarke Young, president of Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. Addison Craft met her while pursuing his bachelaureate degree there. See *Prodigal Daughter*, 19.

³ During the 1930s when Holly Springs first began having pilgrimages, this house was open to the public as one of the tour homes. One of the guests was the writer Clarence Day, who remarked, "I would never have dreamed there would be such a citadel of Victorianism."

⁴ Hubert McAlexander has written that while some antebellum plantations were named in Marshall County, the practice of naming houses began in Holly Springs probably with the Addison Craft house, and escalated after the beginning of the Holly Springs Pilgrimage in 1936. *Southern Tapestry*, 95.

⁵ *Southern Tapestry*, 29, 44, 107.

of the Minors,⁶ "Greenwood," of the Hulls,⁷ and "The Hill," for any newlyweds who wanted to set up housekeeping, and "Woodcote" of the Claytons.⁸

"The Lodge," last occupied by the late Mrs. Jane Jackson, was the plantation home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thomas, and was so called because it was the first settlement of the Hull family in Marshall County. Mrs. Thomas was a Miss Hull—and each family coming from Virginia stopped there until it could get located.⁹

Nearer Holly Springs was "Sylvestria," home of the Cottrells,¹⁰ and almost in the suburbs of Holly Springs on Salem Road was "Tuckahoe," home of William Crump, Sr., grandfather of Dabney H. Crump of Memphis, who has given the name to his country home on Poplar Pike.¹¹

South of the town was "Athenia," the plantation of Henry Jones, father of Mrs. L. A. Rather, Mrs. Jarrett, and Mrs. Robert L. Tucker,¹² and out Chulahoma way was "Galena," plantation home of Will Henry Coxe,¹³ who built for his town house the place now owned by Mayor Dean on Salem Avenue.

Many of these plantations are still owned by descendants, but none is occupied by them except Galena.

A bachelor who broke away from the Salem neighborhood and bought a place in DeSoto County and, with perhaps a testy fling at the custom, called it "Raw Head and Bloody Bones."

RICH IN HEIRLOOMS

With such families as the Breckenridges, Crittendens, Youngs, and Crafts to draw from there should be heirlooms aplenty—furniture, plate and so on—and "The Pines" is rich with them.

Five generations of Crafts have slept on a four-poster bed, and there is a dining room table seventy-five years old.

⁶ Ibid., 12, 107, 160.

⁷ Ibid., 51, 107.

⁸ Ibid., 12, 107.

⁹ Ibid., 107.

¹⁰ Ibid., 14, 16, 124.

¹¹ Ibid., 25.

¹² Ibid., 17.

¹³ Ibid., 28, 43, 160; *Lost Mansions of Mississippi*, 69-71.

A beautiful set of china, one hundred and twenty-five years old, belonged to the Lynns on Mrs. Craft's side of the house. Two Chinese fruit bowls of open work china of ancient origin, and two cups and saucers over a century old, are pretty and interesting.

Hanging in the hall is a portrait of John Witherspoon, signer of the Declaration of Independence and president of Princeton College, an ancestor of the Misses Craft.¹

While not an heirloom, a facsimile of the Confederate seal is much prized by Miss Lizzie Craft. There were only three made and this was given her by her cousin, Miss Bowman of Danville, Ky.

These are only a few of the interesting things to be seen at "The Pines."

The present owners of "The Pines," Misses Lizzie and Cornelia Craft,² beside other improvements, have recently had the house painted in ivory, which makes a beautiful combination with the dark green of the pine trees.

Altogether "The Pines" is one of the most tasteful and attractive homes in the city.³

¹ Like their ancestors, the Crafts were devout members of the Presbyterian Church, with Miss Lizzie serving for many years as her congregation's historian. During this period, she sent monthly reports of the ladies' meetings in her church to *The Mississippi Visitor*, the state's Presbyterian newspaper. These widely circulated accounts contributed to an impression that Holly Springs was one of the more cultured and elegant communities in the region. In those days, Miss Lizzie saw to it that her church had matching sets of china and silver sufficient for one hundred, and in her day the ladies' organizations met weekly instead of monthly, as has been the custom in recent years. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 345.

² Lizzie Craft was for many years the town librarian, working in a small library first in the courthouse and later the city hall. She selected and ordered all the books, and as Chesley Smith remembered, "a familiar sight was her working in the library, sitting on top of a number of books saved for clients." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 70. Lizzie Craft's sister Nina made a lengthy tour of Europe, including a visit to the Middle East, where she visited many of the sacred sites. Articles about her trip were printed in *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*, and she brought back water from the Jordan River which, for years, was used to baptize infants in all the churches of Holly Springs. Chesley T. Smith to R. Milton Winter, July 21, 1995.

³ Chesley Smith recalled the large cast-iron fountain that stood at the intersection of Craft and Chulahoma, in memory of Major Addison Craft. Water splashed down from a small bowl held aloft by a pole that rose from the center of a much larger bowl at the base, from which horses and mules coming into the city could drink, or neighborhood children play. She recalled a similar fountain at the southwest corner of the square (the Miller store corner). Later, when the streets were paved, the fountain from the square was moved to the north side of the square, near the old power house, which is now the police station. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 93. The Craft fountain, is preserved at the Marshall County Historical Museum, along with a white marble fountain given in 1939 in memory of Mrs. Elise Featherston Beall, which long stood on the east side of the courthouse. Hubert McAlexander remarks that "these were enhancements that helped give a certain atmosphere to the town in those by-gone days." Hubert H. McAlexander to R. Milton Winter, October 25, 2002.

11.

MCDOWELL HOME ONCE HAD GAY BALL ROOM.

Salem Avenue Residence Known as the Arthur Place and Was the Scene of Numerous Happy Festivals before the War of the Sixties.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (November 20, 1930). The old Arthur Place on Salem Avenue, now known as the McDowell Place, was the only home in Holly Springs provided with a ballroom, so far as I know.

The ballroom was torn down about 1865, but had been the scene of many gay parties before the War of the Sixties.

While "Ike Marvel," author of "Dream Life," was visiting at "Snowdoun," the ancestral home of the Govans, he attended a dance at the Arthur home and being asked what had interested him most replied, "the negro fiddlers." And the fiddlers would be almost as wonderful to young Mississippians as they were to the New England author of long ago.¹

The Arthur house was one of the pioneer houses of the town, with a double log cabin start and rooms added as needed.

The long reaches of the front yard with the grand old forest trees had a romantic appeal to the belles and beaux of the early days.

Mr. and Mrs. William Arthur who owned the place,² had two daughters, Miss Beck and Miss "Pidge" Arthur. Next door was the Chalmers home with two sons "Bun" and "Ham." The former married Miss Beck Arthur and later became

Gen. James R. Chalmers to the Confederate army.³

My mother was a friend of Miss Pidge and frequently visited there in her girlhood. We lived there for three years following the war, the Arthur home having been broken up during the war.

When we moved there in 1865, Judge Clapp was still living in the colonial house he built, now the home of the Lester Fants. Soon afterward he sold it to Jim House and moved to Memphis.

Capt. Bob McGowan lived in the S. R. Crawford home.⁴ There were no houses from there

³ Brigadier General James R. Chalmers (1831-1898), son of U. S. Senator Joseph W. Chalmers, graduated from South Carolina College in 1851. He was elected district attorney in 1858 and was chosen to represent Marshall County in the Mississippi secession convention. He served in Nathan Bedford Forrest's campaigns in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The end of the war found him in command of all Mississippi cavalry in service in Mississippi and West Tennessee. He later served in the Mississippi state Senate and the U. S. House of Representatives. Chalmers' home stood on East Salem Avenue. The lot was purchased in 1858 by Will Henry Coxe as the site for his mansion, later known as "Airliewood." Chalmers later lived in Vicksburg and Memphis. Lowry & McCardle, 625; *Biographical Dictionary of the American Congress, 1774-1927* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1928): 798; Hamilton, 100-101; *Southern Tapestry*, 30, 68.

⁴ The Crawford Place, named "Montrose" by a later owner, located at 335 East Salem Avenue, was built by Robert McGowan (1832-1894) for his bride, the former Margaret E. Brooks (1838-1871), daughter of Alfred and Lydia Curry Brooks, whose plantation, "Greenwood," was two miles west of Waterford. (The McGowan Place was out on Spring Creek in the same vicinity.) The great Holly Springs house—one of the city's beautiful Greek Revival mansions—recalled by novelist Eudora Welty as "those vertical Holly Springs

¹ See Jay Orr's article on Negro fiddlers in *The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, 1056-57.

² William Arthur (1811-1882), whose home stood on Salem Avenue, was one of the county's wealthiest planters. The house has long since been torn away. It stood next door to "Montrose," on the south side of Salem Avenue. The home site is now the Montrose Arboretum. The bodies of William and Susan Arthur rest in Hill Crest Cemetery. *Prodigal Daughter*, 40, 46; see photo, *Southern Tapestry*, 19.

west to Walthall, though a Mr. [R. L.] Watt, I believe, had lived on the site of Douglas Baird's home before the war.

Mr. Watt owned a tannery and one of his slaves, Dick, notoriously bad, killed his overseer, was tried and hanged at the golgotha in antebellum days, a natural amphitheater just this side of Rocky Mountain.¹ Mast [or Mask], a white man, was hanged there too.²

Executions were public then, the world around, and were designed to be impressive. Dick's might have been staged for a movie.

He was brought out from the old jail and placed in a wagon, seated on his coffin with the noose around his neck.

HOME GUARDS HIS ESCORT

The Home Guards, Capt. Tom Harris commanding, formed a hollow square around the wagon, and away they went. Dick died as he had lived, hard and game to the last.

houses"—is memorable for a sewing room on the east side in the shape of a bisected octagon (since removed but visible in an early photograph), fine marble mantelpieces, a graceful spiral staircase, and a parquet floor in the foyer—all still *in situ*. Although the story is told that the mansion was a wedding present, Robert McGowan built his own house, but his father-in-law did rescue the place from foreclosure twice, and when Alfred Brooks died, his will forgave the remaining debt on the property. See Charles N. Dean Jr., "The History of Montrose, 1860-1878," reprinted in *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 150; information and photos in Miller-Smith, 34; *Southern Tapestry*, 49, 60.

¹ Another nineteenth century Holly Springs location for hangings was in a grove of trees that may still be seen on the east side of the railroad tracks, just beyond the spot where Van Dorn Avenue intersects with East Boundary Street. Here John Cannady was hung for the murder of merchant Marcus Louis, May 24, 1876, a story recounted in these pages (pp. 44-46).

² See ahead to p. 361. Emma Finley also referred to the execution in her diary, March 4, 1859: "Pleasant Mask was hung! for shooting Miss Smith. Crowds of men, women & children, curious to behold the spectacle flocked to town. On Sabbath Mr. Paine preached from the text 'Whoso taketh man's blood,' that [the] law given to Noah was intended for all generations he thinks, and it does seem a necessity in these degenerate times, when a murder is no uncommon occurrence." Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Henry Paine's text was presumably Genesis 9:6, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." *Our Pen Is Time*, 63-65.

If I am not mistaken the uniform of the Home Guards was a most gorgeous affair of gray, cut-away coats and the high caps surmounted by pompous nearly a foot high.³

The company went as an organization to Pensacola, at the first call for troops in 1861, stayed a year and were then scattered into different units and made good fighting material for the Confederacy.⁴

Speaking of Mast, the white man who was hanged, there are these two entries in the records of Christ Church:

"Mast, a white man, was hanged today."

"Mast was buried from this church at 4 p.m. today."⁵

Across the street from the Watt house lived Adrian Mayer⁶ where Mrs. Etta Seale lives, and in the house occupied by County Agent Mitchell lived Dr. Zealy Ross,⁷ then a young bachelor dentist, who drove a fine buggy and pair of beautiful iron gray horses, something unusual so soon after the war. His widow Mrs. Hettie Ross,⁸ lives at the corner of Salem and Randolph.

The Clapp property began at Mrs. Etta Seale's fence and included Frank Wall's lot and covered about thirty acres.

³ This paragraph appeared in an earlier version of the article published in *The South Reporter* (October 16, 1930).

⁴ *Southern Tapestry*, 50, 62, 63.

⁵ News clippings preserved in the vestry book of Christ Church indicate that evidence later came to light that many believed exonerated Mask. The Rev. Bruce D. McMillan to R. Milton Winter, March 1, 2002.

⁶ Adrian Mayer, who built the place in the 1840s, was a lawyer from South Carolina. This is the house, to-day known as "Mosswood," which stands at 290 East Salem Avenue. It was for many years the home of the Robert Seale family. More recently, it was the home of Fredonia Johnson (Mrs. Malcolm) Moss, a grand-daughter of Colonel H. W. Walter, and is presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben W. Seale. See photos in Miller-Smith, 38; *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 94.

⁷ This is the present Victor Baker home, at the northwest corner of Salem and Walthall Streets.

⁸ The house to-day known as "Belvedere," built around 1858, which stands at 225 North Randolph Street.

Judge Trotter,¹ great-grandfather of Frank Hopkins, owned that whole block and I believe, from Mr. J. P. Rowan's to Carl Hoover's.² He must have held court that soon after the war either in the basement of the Methodist Church³ or in the old Franklin Female College. His portrait in oil hangs in Mississippi's hall of fame.

Dr. Bonner and family lived at Bonner House—this is 1865-68—and beyond was the Pointer house, another grand old colonial house, though I believe the Pointers had moved to Memphis.

The Pointer house became Bethlehem Academy, a Roman Catholic school for girls, and after the sisters left in the early nineties, the Rev. P. G. Sears bought it and charged it to a boys' military school and called it St. Thomas Hall, after the old before the war school. Both were under the auspices of the Episcopal Church. The Pointer property is now known as the oil mill lot.⁴

THE OLD WYNNE PLACE

John Sowell's house was known as the Wynne Place then, and was occupied by Mrs. Dickens, whose daughter married Lieut. Newton, a Federal officer in the army of occupation.

¹ James F. Trotter (1802-1866), born in Brunswick County, Va., and was educated in East Tennessee under the Rev. Samuel Doak, a noted Presbyterian teacher. He came to Monroe County, Mississippi in 1823 or 1824, where he practiced law. In 1838 he was appointed to the U. S. Senate, and subsequently served on Mississippi's Supreme Court. Later he came to Holly Springs, serving as a judge on the Chancery Circuit for the Northern District. In 1860 he became a professor of law at the University of Mississippi. *Bench and Bar of Mississippi*, 205-207; Hamilton 118; *It Happened Here*, 108.

² This was the block on the north side of Salem Avenue from the intersection of West Street and Salem east to the intersection of Bonner Street and Salem. Judge Trotter bought ten acres in 1850, and his house, a two-story frame structure with a six-column colonnade across the front and a small balcony above the front doorway, stood at the corner of Salem and Bonner.

³ After the courthouse burned, the county used the Methodist Sunday school hall on the lower floor as a courtroom until 1867, when the Board of Police and Masonic Lodge bought a house jointly, which was used as a court and lodge-hall room until the new courthouse was erected three years later. "Reconstruction in Holly Springs," 182.

⁴ See *Lost Mansions of Mississippi*, 71-73.

Mr. Wynne,⁵ who built the house, had moved to Arkansas shortly before the war. The town of Wynne was named after him. He later moved to Memphis and became a member of the Old Front Street firm, Wynne, Love & Co. The older Wynnes always clung in memory to the "City of Flowers," and their ashes rest here in Hill Crest Cemetery.⁶

Wynne house was the first place I lived at in Holly Springs, when I was brought as an infant from "Woodlawn," the home of my maternal ancestors.

The Will Henry Coxe Place at present Mayor Charles N. Dean's home, was the only house between the Arthur and Wynne houses, and was occupied in 1865 by Mrs. Mary Pugh Govan, who had been the gracious mistress of "Snowdoun" in the antebellum days.

It was at Mrs. Mary Govan's home that I first met Joseph Marye who was later to be my teacher at Chalmers Institute, and lovable old "Hannie" Robinson. Joseph Marye was a cousin of the late Ambrose Marye.

Our home [that is, the Arthur Place for three years following the war] seemed to be the unofficial rectory of Christ Church. Dr. Pickett lived there, as did his successor the Rev. Mr. Pettus.

There, also, Captain Edward Hull Crump bought his bride. They were the parents of Congressman Edward Hull Crump of Memphis.

Capt. Joe Cocke of the Hudsonville neighborhood bought the place and lived there several

⁵ The Wynne House, built by Joel E. Wynne (1812-1883), whose wife was the daughter of Dr. Pointer, whose home was across the street, put up his mansion in 1858-1859. During the war the house was bought by Mrs. Ann Dickens, a widow from Kentucky. During the Federal occupation of Holly Springs the house was taken over for quarters by a Union commander, Lieutenant W. A. Newton, whom she married. At the turn of the century, the house was lost in a poker game. The house is known to-day as "Wakefield." Located at 495 E. Salem Avenue, it is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Rook Moore III. See information and photos in *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 162; Miller-Smith, 33; *Southern Tapestry*, 49, 167.

⁶ The Wynne family gave the beautiful iron gates at Hill Crest Cemetery. *Holly Springs South Reporter* (April 13, 2000).

years. He was grandfather of Mrs. W. B. Athey of this city, the Cocke brothers of Hudsonville and John Taylor of Potts Camp.

The Arthur Place of those days had double the frontage as at present. The late Judge James T. Fant,¹ who owned and lived at the Crawford Place, bought the old Arthur Place and added the garden to his estate and sold the rest to the McDowells, with whom the title has since rested. Mrs. Robert McDowell now owns the place and lives there.²

Mr. and Mrs. David McDowell lived there for years until their removal to Jackson, Miss. With the coming of the McDowells the place came again into its own as a social center. The attractive daughters and nieces of Mr. and Mrs. McDowell were popular and prominent in the social activities of the city.

¹ James Thornton Fant (1838-1895), was born in Alabama and came to Holly Springs in his early years. He was educated at Chalmers Institute and took his B.A. from the University of Mississippi. An able member of the Holly Springs bar, he served both as district attorney and as circuit judge. At various times he was associated in the practice of law with William M. Strickland. He served in the Civil War, attaining the rank of captain. In 1872, he married Miss Clara Clayton, daughter of Judge A. M. Clayton. For a period of years (from 1878 to about 1895) he owned the house on East Salem Avenue now known as "Montrose," later owned by Dr. R. H. Peel, S. R. Crawford, and others. Interested in politics and local dramatic productions and literary pursuits, he was a steward of the First Methodist Church for many years. At the time of his death, he was a trustee of Vanderbilt University. Fant Avenue, which runs behind "Montrose" along the north side of Holly Springs High School, is named in his memory. Hamilton, 103-104.

² Chesley Smith recalled Lilly McDowell's old place. "The house faced Salem Avenue and sat way back close to the alley behind it. The lot went all the way through the block. That alley is now called Fant Avenue. The front yard was covered with growth like Perle Strickland's Once a huge tree fell across the walkway. Instead of having the tree removed, she had a piece sawed out of the trunk so a person could walk right through the tree." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 86. The Rev. George Stephenson described memories of his Aunt Lilly McDowell and her interesting home. These are published as an appendix to Mrs. Smith's book, *Childhood in Holly Springs*, pp. 103-14.

12.

PROGRESS PUTS SKIDS UNDER OLD LANDMARK.

Antebellum Structure Alongside White & Newsom's Garage Long the Home of the Quiggins Family and the Birthplace of W. W. Anderson.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (October 15, 1931).¹ An old landmark was torn down about ten days ago. It was known as the Quiggins house, then the McC Carson or Mobley house, and stood just west of White and Newsom's garage on West Van Dorn Avenue, and belonged to them.²

It formerly occupied the site of the garage and was moved to make room for it. The owners have no present plans for use of the lot, except they are using it for parking purposes.

The house had no particular history other than to connect up certain people and families who were linked with its history.

No one seems to know who built the house, but it is one of the earlier houses in Holly Springs. The first record of the lots in the chancery clerk's office occurs in their sale by the board of police to the late Judge Gordentia Waite in 1841.

The board of police corresponded to the board of supervisors in the earlier years, and how they came by it does not appear. Judge Waite was probate clerk—the same as chancery clerk now—and held the office for many years.

John R. McCarroll, the unbeatable sheriff of antebellum days, acquired the property and sold it to E. W. Whitson, who in turn sold it to John M. Anderson in 1849.

Mr. Anderson who died in 1915 at the advanced age of ninety-five years, was the father of Mrs. Lizzie Fant and W. W. Anderson of Holly Springs.

He may have built the house (Mrs. Fant did not know), for he was living there in 1862 when he sold it to O. J. Quiggins and others, and moved to his plantation on Coldwater near Mack. He moved to Texas shortly afterwards and did not return until after the war. Will Anderson was born in the old house.³

ONCE AGAIN THE QUGGINS HOME

The Quiggins family lived in the old house until the yellow fever visitation of 1878. Kinloch, Jim and John Quiggins, and a daughter, Angie, were born there. Believing that the open spaces were safer, Mr. Quiggins moved during the fever to the last Quiggins home, on Chesterman Street, but poor Angie, aged eight, died with it.

Mrs. Emma McC Carson, sister of Will Mobley, bought the house from the Quiggins' in 1902, and later sold it to John Black. The late L. A. Rather once owned the property as an investment.

While the house had no particular history, it witnessed, so to speak, one of the most cowardly and brutal murders that ever stained the annals of Marshall County, when ruffians shot and mortally wounded poor old Mr. [James Henry] Nelson,⁴ at the J. A. Miller store corner.⁵

³ Will Anderson was a Holly Springs architect. He designed the large Queen Anne house for Misses Sadie and Lizzie Wells that still stands to-day at the southwest corner of North Maury Street and Roberts Avenue. Mr. Anderson later lived in the upstairs apartment of the old City Hall, now the Stennett Dental Office at 152 North Memphis Street. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 84.

⁴ Mr. Mickle incorrectly remembered James Henry Nelson by the name of his son, Thomas.

⁵ This is the present Graham Miller Department Store, located at the southwest corner of Memphis Street and Van Dorn Avenue.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² The house was located on the lot behind Graham Miller's store.

It was immediately following the surrender in April 1865, when disbanded Confederate soldiers were going home. Whether the robbers were Confederate soldiers, guerrillas or unconnected desperadoes was never known.

Mr. Nelson was clerk in what is now the J. A. Miller store on the southwest corner of the square. He lived in the McGowan house on East College Avenue,¹ and the robbers got him and started for the store. On the way up he dropped the key of the store in the weeds, and didn't give it when they demanded it at the store.

WAS SHOT AS HE RAN

They beat him over the head with their pistols and he ran west on Van Dorn Avenue, or Church Street, as it was then called. They fired on him and he fell. He was carried to the Lewis house, which stood across the alley back of Stafford's Café,² and was later known as the Nabors Place. He died that night.

I was a small boy and lived at what is now the Moore Apartments across from Christ Church,³ and I saw some of the rioting. We saw

¹ This is the house presently known as "Grey Gables," located at 390 East College Avenue.

² Stafford's Café, long a local landmark, stood on the town square at the northwest corner of Memphis Street and Van Dorn Avenue, where the Ralph Doxey Building is now. It burned December 10, 1956.

³ The widowed Jane Hull Minor rented various houses in Holly Springs in the 1860s—one of them was white frame home that stands on Van Dorn Avenue across the street from Christ Church. Her daughter Lucy Minor Mickle (John M. Mickle's mother) and the children lived with her—Lucy's husband Maj. Belton Mickle being in the army. The house was built by Dr. Samuel Creed Gholson, but never occupied by him. Before leaving to fight in the Civil War, Gholson had made arrangements with Spires Boling, the Holly Springs master-builder, to construct the house, but upon returning found that the home had not been completed to his specifications. A more practical consideration was that Gholson's father-in-law, Dr. Samuel O. Caruthers had died in 1862, and Dr. Gholson's wife, Mary Caruthers Gholson, wished to remain in the old homestead with her widowed mother. Later, the house was lived in by Anne Lemmington Dickens Crump, a psychic or spiritualist, who conducted séances in Washington, D. C. and New York City before large audiences. In 1890, Mrs. Crump sold the home to Egbert R. and Elizabeth Blanton Jones, who occupied it until 1896, when they purchased the house on Chulahoma Avenue now known as "Box Hill." The house, with its four signature octagonal columns—Boling's trade-

horsemen riding back and forth before what is Stafford's Café and firing into the doors and windows. The robbers supposed a shoemaker in there had whiskey and wanted him to unbar his door.

Few soldiers had returned from the war and the white male population was composed of old men and young boys. W. J. L. Holland of Morgan's command had returned and had ridden in from his home on Coldwater that afternoon to call on Misses Susan and Betsy Hull (sisters of Brodie Hull).

Word was sent to Mr. Holland, the only soldier in town, about the raid. Those old soldiers were brave fellows, and he started out single-handed to meet them, armed only with a six-shooter—cap and ball at that.

He found them gathered just off the square on South Center Street, preparing to leave town. "What command do you belong to, gentlemen?" he called out. The replied with a volley, one shot piercing his hat, and then galloped out South Center.⁴

mark—was restored in the late 1970s by Charles N. Dean Jr. Hubert H. McAlexander, *Holly Springs South Reporter* (April 24, 1986): 10.

⁴ James Henry Nelson, who with his wife Maria, lived in the house now known as "Grey Gables," on East College Avenue, was a respected citizen who worked in a store owned by Hugh Winborn. It was located on the southwest corner of the square in the building that presently houses the Graham Miller Department Store. Nelson had sheltered his neighbor J. W. Clapp, when the latter was pursued by a Union raiding party, and the Nelson household once suffered the loss of forty barrels of salt to Federal soldiers. This time, the offence was at the hands of Southerners, making it more difficult to bear. Two other memories of the event may be recorded here. The first is from the pen of nine-year-old Belle Strickland, May 9, 1865: "The Yankees were in here Wednesday and Thursday and stayed all day both days. They were away Thursday evening and have not been in here since. Friday night the robbers came in here and took Mr. Nelson uptown and wanted to get in his store but he did not have the key. Mr. Winborn had the key and threw it down when he found out what they wanted. When they saw Mr. Nelson and Mr. Winborn talking to each other, they fired at Mr. Winborn but did not hit him at first, but hit him in the shoulder the second time. They shot at Mr. Nelson and hit him right through the head after they had popped three caps on him. He died that night at four o'clock..." The next account is from Belle's teacher, Cora Watson, dated three days earlier. "So stunning have been the events

of the time that a space to be reckoned by years seems to intervene since I wrote last. Local and public calamities of the most horrible nature have followed each other so rapidly, the whole community seems bewildered, stunned. I feel, as I always do under the first shock of a great sorrow, a crushing sense of some terrible blow, without realizing its nature or extent. I have wept so many and such bitter tears that my eyes seem on fire and my brain benumbed....Late in the afternoon yesterday Mother and I walked out to the graveyard, and coming back, met Hal and some other boys who told us the Yankees were in town, and a moment after we heard they were Fort's men. We walked on and, just as we were turning Dr. Smith's corner, met two, who asked us if Mr. Nelson lived there. Mother told him, 'No, Mr. Nelson lived at the end of this street.' When they galloped madly off, I said to Mother, 'What desperate, reckless-looking men they are.' One, the one who spoke to us, had long, waving, glossy black hair reaching his shoulders, and a dark, Spanish face. He wore a black hat fastened up at the side with a star as large as the palm of my hand. I told Mother he had a bad face, I thought. We stopped at Mrs. Hull's gate, where all the ladies of the family were standing, and found that the soldiers or men in town were not of Fort's company, but were regarded with much suspicion by the people on account of their mysterious behavior and ruffianly [sic] appearance. Many of them were in Yankee clothes, and almost everybody at the gate said they knew they were a band of robbers and prophesied that the town would 'go up' that night. But I thought it was doubtless a guerilla company of our men, probably Quantrell's who were said to have passed through town four or five days before, and so felt not the least anxiety or fear....A little while after, as we were in the sitting room talking, we heard three or four shots in town, and thought some of the soldiers were drunk and firing their pistols in the air. Eddie seemed to mistrust the men. He had seen them all, and said he expected they were firing at some of the citizens. But we all rebuked him for speaking so of our soldiers, said we could understand so well, and sympathize with, the feelings of brave Southern men now, driven to desperation by the loss of our Cause. Mother and I walked to the front door, and just then the command came down our street from town, and we near the gate. As they came on by, Mother said, 'Are you our men?' and one answered, 'We are Confederate soldiers.'...After passing the corner of the yard, one rode back and asked, 'Are you Union people or rebels?' Mother said, 'You will find nothing but rebels here.' He said, 'Ladies, we were in this town five or six days ago and we couldn't buy a thing with our money, couldn't get a chew of tobacco with it, and we have taken a few things we wanted,' and Mother said, 'I can't blame you,' and asked to what command they belonged. He answered 'Texas Rangers.' Then I said, 'They have fought so gallantly, I feel so much sympathy for them.' He started off then, and Mother asked him to come in and get supper, and he declined and rode away....His manner was so

respectful and his vindication of the behavior he represented them as guilty of so good. Besides he spoke in a rather excited manner, and his voice trembled, and we said, 'Poor fellow! His only pay Confederate money, and his home way off in Texas, we cannot blame him!' We heard several shots soon after this, and while we were sitting at the supper table heard screams. We ran out, and were told the soldiers were behaving badly at Mr. Nelson's. We started down that way to see if we could find out anything about the disturbance, and were overtaken by Church, who told us that Mr. Nelson had been shot in the head, and he was going for Dr. Dancy. We were horror-struck and came back home....Saw Dr. Dancy returning from town, and Eddie ran out to enquire about Mr. Nelson. He was shot. Dr. Dancy said, for refusing to give up his store key. The wound was in the head, and Dr. Dancy said he was insensible and in a very bad condition....They say the men went to Mrs. Nelson's after shooting her husband, killed the dog in the yard, and went into Mrs. Nelson's drawers and trunks, taking Mr. Nelson's and Tommie's clothes (I have since heard, not leaving enough to shroud Mr. Nelson) and Willie's watch. They made Mrs. Nelson sit down, and one put his pistol to her breast, and told her he would shoot her if she stirred, and another fired his pistol in the house to frighten her. She did not know Mr. Nelson was shot, but one of the men told her they had 'hurt the old man a little.' It was after they left that she gave the screams we heard and started down in town, thinking there was a command there, and that she could get protection. When Church told her about Mr. Nelson, she fainted and was carried home, has fainted several times since, and raves deliriously. Oh, how sorry I am for her, poor woman! While the horror of this black deed is still brooding over us comes in quick succession news (which leaves no longer a doubt of Lee's surrender) of the arrival of numbers of paroled soldiers from the Army of Northern Virginia in Meridian; of Johnston's surrender to Sherman; of Dick Taylor's surrender yesterday morning of this Western department to Canby, which surrender includes Gen. Forrest's and Gen. Maury's commands; and of the escape of President Davis, Vice-President Stephens, Secretary Benjamin, and Generals Beauregard and Bragg across the Mississippi. And now the last faint hope of our Confederacy is dead, and for our future we have exile from our native land, our kindred, our friends, and the graves of our thrice-happy dead—or a more unendurable alternative, ceaseless humiliation, oppression, worse than slavery to a race whom we already hate and loathe. Jimmie Crump got up from Grenada to-day. Says there is not a soldier west of the Mississippi—all are prisoners. Says he expects to be at home for good in a week. Captain Mickle wrote his wife word that he would come home soon and go to work for her and the children. Major Strickland is going down tomorrow with Jimmie Crump. He ran away yesterday evening at the rumor of Yankees, but came back this morning—We have had a pleasant evening,

Mr. Holland was later editor of *The Reporter*, and met a hero's death in the yellow fever visitation in 1878. The Mississippi Press Association monument marks his grave in Hill Crest Cemetery.

though all felt the shadow which is resting over us."
See *Civil War Women*, 119-23.

13.

WRECKERS FIND IT HARD TO RAZE 90 YEAR-OLD LUCAS RESIDENCE.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (March 24, 1932).¹ Dan Garner has the contract to wreck Sam Sigman's former residence on [North] Memphis Street, which was partly destroyed by fire last year, and the wreckers are having a time tearing it to pieces.

It was formerly known as the Lucas Place and was probably built for Peter Lucas around ninety years ago. Mr. Sigman contemplates rebuilding, but has no present plan.

Primeval forests covered the land at that time and builders took time to season the timber. Each corner post of the old house was hewn from the trunk of a tree and extends the height of two stories. They are beautifully mortised and the timbers fastened on with oaken pegs. The wood work of the older part of the house is of like kind.

Col. Peter Lucas was one of the wealthiest men in Marshall County.² Mrs. (Judge) J. W. Clapp, of Memphis, and Mrs. Col. (Henrietta) Smith were daughters; and Col. Fielding A. and George Lucas his sons; all are dead.

Mrs. Daisy Wright is the daughter of Col. Fielding Lucas, and Mrs. Robert Seale, Sr., is a granddaughter of Mrs. Smith.

The old house had witnessed some bright scenes, especially after Col. Fielding Lucas brought his bride, Mrs. Ella Bracken Lucas, there in the Civil War period. They were both popular, especially with young people.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 15, 1932).

² See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 74, 84, 112; *Southern Tapestry*, 47.

14.

MANY OTHER PLACES OF HISTORICAL NOTE.

Additional Columns about Buildings and Institutions of Holly Springs and Vicinity Will be Printed in Subsequent Issues.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (November 20, 1930). There are several historical places that I have not written of yet, but will do so later. I will make only brief mention today of some of them.

St. Thomas Hall, old and new, both under the auspices of the Episcopal Church, Franklin Female College,¹ Chalmers Institute, Bethlehem Academy,² and M. S. College.

The old Peel plantation home near Laws Hill,³ now nearing its century milestone. Sylvestria, near Hudsonville, where flourished a girl's school,⁴ and Old Hudsonville Church, its neighbor.⁵ Lumpkin's plantation home,⁶ and above all Lumpkin's Pond.

¹ Franklin Female College, under a number of names, had a long and interesting history. Informally associated for most of its existence with the Methodist Church, it was founded by a Methodist minister, the Rev. Stephen G. Starks and occupied an imposing Greek Revival building at the northwest corner of College Avenue and Randolph Street, where the Baptist recreational building now stands. The structure, used as a hospital and for a courtroom during the Civil War, served educational purposes until 1898, and burned in 1904. See *Southern Tapestry*, 30, 62, 69, 82, 85.

² See *Southern Tapestry*, 69, 72, 82, 85.

³ See *Lost Mansions of Mississippi*, 67-69.

⁴ Before the Civil War, a classical academy flourished at Hudsonville, taught by James Iredell Hall. The school was five miles distant from another academy, taught by Hall's kinsman, James S. Hall. Members of the family have long resided in Tipton County, Tennessee, where succeeding generations have been involved in the area's educational efforts. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 125, 139.

⁵ The story of the reorganization of the Hudsonville Church in the early 1920s is worth repeating. Having been inactive for some years, the congregation was omitted from the presbytery's roll, and steps were taken in 1921 to dissolve the congregation and sell the property. According to the Rev. Homer M. McLain, home missions pastor of the presbytery, five persons, upon learning of this plan, identified themselves as members, and communicated their request to the presbytery that the old organization be maintained. These were H. K. Mahon, J. N. Guntharp, Edd Gibbons, Mrs.

The Nelms home—the boyhood home of the Hon. Edward H. Crump.⁷ The McGuirk Place, now the residence of Mrs. W. A. Anderson, once the home of one of the Randolphs, founder of Holly Springs. The McCulley Place, later the Mickle Place, where Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury, the "Pathfinder of the Seas," was a guest.

Rixie Mahon Harris, and Miss Fannie Guntharp. With the assistance of the Rev. C. Z. Berryhill and Elder D. M. Featherston of Holly Springs, action was taken to cancel the sale. The church pews, which had already been removed were repurchased, a new roof was put on the church, and a Sunday school was organized. The following summer a student minister was employed, and in August 1922, after a series of evangelistic services, seventeen new members were received. The church continued in active service until dissolved in 1989, when it became a chapel of the Presbyterian Church at Lamar. See Homer M. McLain, "Historical Sketch of Hudsonville Presbyterian Church" (1926), Sessional Records of the Hudsonville Presbyterian Church; Fannie Guntharp, "Statement Remembering the Reorganization of the Hudsonville Presbyterian Church" (1932). Presbyterian Historical Foundation, Monreat, N. C.

⁶ See photos and information in *A Vanishing America*, 57-58; *Lost Mansions of Mississippi*, 73; *Southern Tapestry*, 25, 55, 131.

⁷ The McCorkle-Nelms-Crump Place, which stands at 127 West Gholson Avenue, was built in the 1830s by Samuel McCorkle, an early banker, and the first land commissioner to the Indians. Molly Nelms (Mrs. Edward Hull) Crump Sr., inherited the home in 1885 and moved in with her family, including son, Edward Hull Crump, Jr. the future mayor of Memphis. The home was built in 1837, as shown by receipts for the building materials in the possession of Mr. Hugh H. Rather, a family descendant. See drawing reproduced in *Southern Tapestry*, 122-23. An interesting feature of the house is the recessed stairs leading to the front porch. The roof balustrade seems to have been added in this century. The Crump Place was until recently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Woods. It has recently been purchased by Mr. David Person of San Antonio and London. See information and photos in *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 158; *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 88-89; *Mississippi Scenes*, 121-23; Miller-Smith, 35.

The old Episcopal rectory at the foot of West Van Dorn, where Dr. Ingraham died—since torn down. The Autry or Greer Place on Van Dorn Avenue, the home of Col. James L. Autry of Confederate fame; and birth place of Judge James M. Greer, now of Beaumont, Texas. The old Shumake-Williamson-Shumacker house on College Avenue; and the old Hull-Finley house that stood just across the street, now M. S. College Annex.¹ The old Randolph house, another founder of Holly Springs, [the site now occupied by] the home of Henry Gatewood.

Then there will be the Walter house, now the home of Mrs. M. A. Greene. A stately, castellated colonial house built for Col. H. W. Walter, a northerner who outdid Southern hospitality itself. Leader among legal giants of the Holly Springs bar, Confederate soldier, hero and martyr in time of pestilence—Holly Springs' grand old man. Also I will tell of how his son-in-law, the late Oscar Johnson, bought the place and a lot of other land and houses and gave to Holly Springs for a few years one of the prettiest parks in Mississippi.²

"Strickland Place,"³ said to have been the first two-story house built in Marshall County, home of the late Maj. William M. Strickland, built by his father-in-law, Dr. James Madison Thomson.⁴ Jefferson Davis, later president of the Confederacy, was a guest there.⁵

¹ "The Annex," as it came to be called was the old colonnaded Hull Place that eventually was purchased for use by the North Mississippi Presbyterian College. It originally stood at the northeast corner of East College Avenue and North Randolph Street. In 1903, the house was moved to southeast corner of Randolph Street and Falconer Avenue, to make way for a new administration building at Mississippi Synodical College. The old house was used for classroom purposes. After the college closed in 1939, the Annex was demolished. See *Civil War Women*, 238; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 362-63.

² See J. Frazier Smith, *White Pillars: The Architecture of the South* (New York: Bramhall, 1946): 95-97.

³ Mildred Strickland's wartime letters frequently allude to her husband's friendship with Jefferson Davis. On April 4, 1861, she said: "I want to write to Davis, but he may give you some appointment that you nor I would not like."

⁴ The house was built for Judge Frederick W. Huling in 1838.

⁵ As with all early Holly Springs houses, timbers for the Strickland Place were hewed by hand near the site. No nails were used in the framing, and the struc-

The Freeman house, built by my old Sunday school teacher, Mr. Walthall, and the home of his talented family, among who were Maj. Gen. Edward Cary Walthall of the Confederate army, later United States Senator; and his gifted sister Mrs. Kate Walthall Freeman,⁶ who made the house a musical and literary center in Holly Springs' golden past.⁷

tural members were mortised and pinned with wooden pegs. All the lumber was heart pine, and bricks for the foundation and chimneys were handmade. The house itself was entirely of wood; the kitchen and outbuildings were built later of brick. There were six eighteen by twenty foot rooms on the first floor, and two rooms of the same dimension on the second. The grounds were fronted by tall hedges, with the house set well back from the street. Unusual cylindrical plastered pillars formed gateposts, such as one might see at the entrance to a French country estate, and a serpentine brick walk edged with boxwood led to the porch. In later years, the lawn was almost obscured by lush vegetation that William Strickland's daughter Perle allowed to flourish. The house had many interesting antiques, including items used by Major Strickland in the Civil War. In the late 1940s, the house was bought by the local Catholic Church and became St. Joseph's School. In the 1960s, when the school outgrew these quarters, the house was demolished to make way for the new St. Joseph's Church. See R. Milton Winter, ed., *Civil War Women: The Diaries of Belle Strickland and Cora Harris Watson* (Lafayette, Calif.: Thomas-Berryhill Press, 2001), xiv-xvi, 217-22; see photo, *Southern Tapestry*, 138.

⁶ Kate Walthall Freeman, whom Sherwood Bonner described as "nearer to perfection than any woman I knew," a person of "manifold perfections" was regarded as the social and cultural leader of Holly Springs. In Bonner's novel *Like unto Like*, Mrs. Freeman was said to have been the model for the thrifty, clever Mrs. Oglethorpe, who "timed the music of the [town's] orchestra." *Prodigal Daughter*, 19.

⁷ The Walthall-Freeman Place, which stands at 290 East College Avenue dates to the earliest days Holly Springs. It has been added to a number of times, but the earliest structure (incorporated in the present house) was a house of one or two log rooms, apparently built in 1838. In 1843 Jesse Lewellen, Judge of the Marshall County Probate Court, purchased the lot and enlarged the original structure. In 1852, the Lewellen residence was purchased by Sarah Southall Wilkinson Walthall, the mother of the much-admired Holly Springs Major General and later U. S. Senator Edward Cary Walthall. The property descended for three generations in the female line of this family. Mrs. Walthall's daughter Kate Walthall Freeman remodeled the house in the 1870s, giving it its present appearance. Her daughter, artist Kate Freeman Clark also lived there. It is currently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Dale Green. See photo, *Southern Tapestry*, 94.

15.

VOLNEY PEEL HOME NOW 98 YEARS OLD.

Built Near Laws Hill in 1833 of Brick Made Here By Slaves
Before Marshall County or Holly Springs were Organized.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (January 8, 1931). Holly Springs and Marshall County will soon be having opportunities for century celebrations, the county having been organized January 9, 1836, and Holly Springs incorporated in the [next] year.¹

The old Volney Peel plantation home near Laws Hill antedates both, having been built in 1833,² and the Green Pryor plantation home, "Luconia," also in the southern part of the county, is a close second having been built in the early days, I cannot learn the date.

It is fitting that these two houses should furnish stories so near the Yuletide season for while both kept open house the year around in the old days, Christmas trees and Christmas festivities were especially observed.³

¹ A truly remarkable program of activities was arranged to celebrate the county's 1936 centennial—this all the more since the community was still in the throes of the Great Depression. Besides Mr. Mickle's series of historical articles, the women of the Garden Club organized a tour of historic homes, a horse show, pageant in Spring Hollow, a jousting tournament, Confederate Ball, spirituals by the Rust College choir, tour of Hill Crest Cemetery, and the performance of "Heaven Bound," by the students of Mississippi Industrial College. The tour of homes and churches eventuated in the annual Holly Springs Garden Club Pilgrimage. See Rita B. Cochran, "First Pilgrimage was a Great Success," *Holly Springs South Reporter* (October 22, 1936); reprinted in *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 389-95; see photos, pp. 387-95; *Southern Tapestry*, 132; see photos, pp. 131, 136-137.

² The date of the Peel home is uncertain. See *Southern Tapestry*, 16, 21.

³ Even the minister's home was rich with hospitality in the old South. Mary Virginia Grigsby Foley, whose father pastored the Presbyterian Church (1897-1904), remembered that, "Christmas was lots of fun, though quite simple compared to holidays now. We did not have trees in our homes but hung up our stockings by the fireplace. Trees were used in the churches, though, and programs were given by the

To the present generation, accustomed to tiny apartments and the scrimping incident to the high cost of living, the open-handed hospitality of the old days seems like profligate waste

Volney Peel was the founder of the Peel family in Marshall, coming here from near Huntsville, Ala., in 1832, and settling near Laws Hill. He was a civil engineer and took part in organizing Marshall County.⁴

He was a close friend of John B. Fant, who with his brother Col. J. W. Fant were among the pioneers of Marshall County, and they and their descendants have always been prominent in the affairs of Marshall County throughout its history. They were grandfathers, respectively, of W. H. Fant, president of the First State Bank, and Lester G. Fant, president of the Bank of Holly Springs.⁵

children. Candles were lighted on the boughs of the evergreen tree (very dangerous!). One year the tree caught on fire, due to the lighted candles. Everyone rushed out and no one was hurt. The fire was quickly extinguished. We had pleasant but simple gifts. One great treat was an orange in the toe of each stocking." Mary Virginia wrote that, "Christmas was 'calling day.' The parlor was opened, fires lighted, and the entire house bright and cheery, with many goodies about, particularly beaten biscuits, chicken salad and fruit cake, the favorites. And we all wore our best Sunday clothes. Many visitors from our congregation and elsewhere called and the little tray on the table in the hall would be filled with calling cards." *Memories of Childhood in Holly Springs*, 29, 30.

⁴ *Southern Tapestry*, 11, 16, 21, 26, 160.

⁵ John Berry Fant was born June 6, 1799, and was a large planter before the Civil War. During Reconstruction he was a prominent Democratic leader and one of the few whites to hold office during that time. He headed the county Board of Police (1865-1869), and supervised the rebuilding of the courthouse. James Wren Fant was born in Stafford County, Virginia in 1808. He came to Marshall County after residing for a time in Alabama, where he met and married his wife.

The Peel house is thought to have been the first brick house built in Marshall County, and it was built of Marshall County brick and burnt on the place by slave labor.¹ While it changed hands for a while it is now owned and occupied by a descendant of the older Peel. It is located fourteen miles south of Holly Springs on the Wyatte and Holly Springs Road on Road No. 7 of the county map.²

It was built one-and-a-half stories in height, with four rooms 20 x 20 feet on the first floor and a hall about 20 x [40] feet with front and back porches. The two back rooms have folding doors that may be thrown open giving a large spacing for dancing.

The upper story contained six smaller rooms that were used for bedrooms. Several dormers gave additional light to this story.³

BURYING GROUND CLOSE BY

Following the custom of many in the old days, the family burying ground is located not far away and here rest the ashes of the older Volney Peel and many of the family.⁴

He was a surveyor and came to Marshall County in 1836 to lay off the Chickasaw Sections. His sons Glenn and Selden died of the yellow fever in 1878. Selden's son, Lester Glenn, was a prominent banker and attorney in Holly Springs. Hamilton, 103; *Southern Tapestry*, 13.

¹ As Hodding Carter has remarked, "Brick predominated [for the building of houses in Marshall County] because of the fortuitous way in which native clay was employed for building. The red earth of the Pontotoc Ridge remains to-day possibly the best brick-making soil in America. The house builders simply excavated the cellar areas of their homes-to-be and with portable equipment and the labor of artisan slaves they made their bricks on the spot. The houses literally were born from the land on which they rose. The result was not only handsomer and more durable buildings, but the expense was far less than had trees been felled in the forests, transported, and sawed into boards." *A Vanishing America*, 62.

² See *Lost Mansions of Mississippi*, 67-69.

³ The house was named "Hickory Park," and was the first fine house built in the county. The Federal-style entry, wainscoting, and other wooden millwork were probably brought by steamboat up the Tallahatchie to the port of Wyatte, a few miles away. See information and photos in Miller-Smith, 52; and *Southern Tapestry*, 21, 22.

⁴ This cemetery has been surveyed by David and Marie Pryor, *Cemeteries of Marshall County*, 61. Only a few headstones remain visible to-day.

Volney Peel's sons were Dr. R. H. Peel, Andrew Peel, Tom Peel, Addison (Add.) Peel and Volney Peel.

Dr. R. H. Peel, father of Mrs. S. R. Crawford of this city, was the oldest and is said to have been the first white child born in Marshall County.⁵ He was one of the best beloved physicians in Marshall County and in Holly Springs where he spent the latter part of his life. He was a surgeon in the Confederate army. He was married twice, two sisters, daughters of B. D. Matthews, a highly respected citizen of Mt. Pleasant and Holly Springs.

Dr. Peel was a large-hearted physician, sympathetic and never declined to answer a call, whether the patient was white or colored, had money or not.

I witnessed a pathetic scene in his office, now a part of the composing room of *The South Reporter*.⁶ It was necessary to amputate a finger for a poor ignorant colored woman who knew nothing of anesthetics. Dr. Peel tried patiently to explain to her how she would go to sleep and when she awoke the finger would be gone.

But she did not understand and when she awoke she thought an angel of the Lord had been sent to remove it and acted as a simple mind would, shouting and praising God. It took two strong men to hold her.

Following the war and freeing of the slaves Dr. Peel deeded 100 acres of land for a home to the old carriage driver and seamstress, Spencer and Dicie Peel, who were married.

Alfred Peel, another slave, was elected to the Mississippi Legislature during the carpetbag regime.

G. W. (Wash) Wright bought the Peel house in 1874 and lived there until he moved to Holly Springs in 1886. He resold the house to Volney

⁵ The official and approved biography of Dr. Peel in Goodspeed's *Memoirs of Mississippi*, published in 1891, while the doctor was still living, states that he was born September 30, 1832, in Courtland, Lawrence County, Alabama, and that his surveyor father moved the family to cabins in Marshall County in 1834. *Memoirs of Mississippi*, 2:576.

⁶ That is, the small addition to the rear of the present Collier Carlton law office at 154 South Market Street.

Peel, Jr., in 1897, and his sons, Hal Peel of Memphis and Andrew Peel, who lives on the place, now own it.

With the occupancy of the Wright family the old home lost none of its former hospitality; it was still a social center for the young people of the neighborhood, as well as friends from a distance.

Mr. Wright's family consisted at the time he moved to Holly Springs in 1885 of himself and wife, four sons, D. B., Emmet M., Elliott and Charles H. Wright and three daughters, Misses Hattie, Olivia (Mrs. R. M. Evans) and Mitchell (Mrs. Meadows) of Texas. Only Mrs. Evans and C. H. Wright are living today. Charlie Wright served as Chancery Clerk for several terms and is now in business here. I am much indebted to him for information in regard to the Peel house.

G. W. Wright moved to the Laws Hill neighborhood in the early days from Fayette County, Tenn. Mrs. Wright was Miss Nannie Harris and her father, Charles B. Harris, for whom Charlie was named, was a noted pioneer Methodist minister.

Mrs. D. B. Wright is a granddaughter of Whitmel Sephas Randolph, founder of Holly Springs, and her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Ben Milam, were married in the Randolph, or Boling house, on Randolph Street, now residence of Henry Gatewood.¹

¹ The former Boling-Gatewood Place, at 220 North Randolph Street, now the Ida B. Wells Art Gallery.

16.

WAR UPSET SPLENDID LUMPKIN UNDERTAKING.

Distinguished Resident of Early Days Started Construction on What Would Have Been Largest and Finest Residence in Marshall County.

*"If thou would'st view old Melrose right,
Go view it in the pale moonlight."*

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (January 28, 1932).¹ It is a far cry from the ruins of old Melrose Abbey in Scotland to the frustrated ambitious dream of a wealthy antebellum Marshall County planter, but even so it was worth the drive to view what was to have been the Lumpkin home, four miles south of Holly Springs.

It was intended to be the magnificent gesture of success and wealth that had come to Col. William B. Lumpkin, one of the earlier settlers in the county. He was from Georgia, of a distinguished family, and it is said that for seventy-five years Georgia's Supreme Court was not without a Lumpkin.²

He was a classmate of Dr. John N. Waddel, one of the earlier chancellors of the University of Mississippi. Dr. Waddel was a Presbyterian minister, who was one of the organizers of the Southern Presbyterian Church.³

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 15, 1932).

² William Blanton Lumpkin, whose father had come to the county with the earliest settlers, purchased a large plantation in the southern part of the county, in an area that had come to be called the Indian Reserve, because several mixed-blood Chickasaw families who had gained wealth from the sale of the tribal lands had elected not to move to the Indian territory in Oklahoma and had carved out immensely profitable plantations from the wilderness in this section of the territory. Lumpkin, who had bought the John B. Moore place, continued to reap the bounty of the land, and, like his Chickasaw predecessors, owned many slaves. *A Vanishing America*, 57-58; "The Saga of a Mixed-Blood Chickasaw Dynasty," 289-300; *Southern Tapstry*, 15, 24, 54, 131.

³ The Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States of America, organized in 1861, was renamed in 1866, the Presbyterian Church in the United States and long spoken of informally as the Southern Presbyter-

Col. William Blanton Lumpkin's first wife was a Miss Ann Calloway of Georgia. They were married, I believe, before they came to Mississippi.

His second wife was Miss Jane Pegues, a sister of the late Marlborough C. and William Pegues, and relative of the late Dr. Pegues, of Oxford-Abbeville.

Dr. Pegues' antebellum home (now Mrs. Ben Prices' home) on North Lamar Street has long been a show place of Oxford.⁴

ian Church. It remained an organization separate from its parent body, the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America until 1983—the last major institution in the United States to be organized according to the boundaries of the old Confederacy. Judge J. W. Clapp and the Rev. Henry H. Paine, of Holly Springs, had attended the last united assembly of their church, held at Indianapolis, Indiana. Clapp wrote in his memoirs that, "I think this was the last Gen. Assembly in which the two sections were represented." *Memoranda of the Travels of Judge J. W. Clapp*, 44-45. John Newton Waddel (1812-1895) was the son of the famed teacher, the Rev. Dr. Moses Waddel, whose classical academy at Willington, South Carolina educated several early Marshall County leaders. Mrs. Waddel was the sister of the Rev. Daniel Gray, first pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Hudsonville, Miss., who also organized the church at Holly Springs. A close friend of the Crafts in Holly Springs, Dr. Waddel also taught in the Presbyterian Synodical College at LaGrange, Tennessee. During his tenure at the University of Mississippi, he was also minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Oxford. His memoirs contain many Marshall County anecdotes. See *Memorials of Academic Life: Being an Historical Sketch of the Waddel Family, Identified Through Three Generations with the History of Higher Education in the South and Southwest* (Richmond: Presbyterian Committee on Publication, 1891).

⁴ The home is now called "Ammadelle." See *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 150-51.

Col. Lumpkin called his house "Morro Castle."¹

FIRM FOUNDATION WALLS

I saw foundation and walls of the uncompleted building thirty years after they were laid, and they were unhurt by time. Piles of unused building material lay near. The War of the Sixties stopped what had been begun in 1859 or '60.

Coincident with building operations, landscaping was carried on in the grounds surrounding it and many fine trees and shrubs set out.

Col. Lumpkin's first residence was a comfortable country frame house, a few miles out on what used to be called the "mouth of Tippah Road" that leads out by Hill Crest Cemetery.² He gave this with some lands to his daughter, Mrs. Bland Oswald, and it is still known as the Bland Oswald Place.

Had Col. Lumpkin's brick house been completed as designed it would have been by far the largest and finest residence in town or country, twenty five or thirty rooms; with splendid halls and veranda.

The walls, as I saw them later, were up two stories with two ells running back; the solid foundation of sandstone quarried from a rocky hill on the plantation of Nathaniel Smith³—E. M. Smith's father. All were as solid as the workmen had left them.

OWNED MANY SLAVES

Col. Lumpkin had secured the services of a Boston architect to design the house and super-

¹ See *Lost Mansions of Mississippi*, 72-75.

² The old Tippah Road is now called South Center Street, so-named because it ends at the middle of the town square. Some say it followed the route of an Indian trail. The street is first mentioned by its present name in the Board of Police Minutes, June 7, 1836 in an order to "lay off the road from the public square running south with Center Street to county seat of Lafayette County." Later, the Board of Selectmen minutes, February 12, 1869, authorized the opening of a street "due south, commencing at the street running east and west in front of William F. Mason's lot [now Mason Avenue] and ending at the mouth of James Greer's lane." Sometime after this (certainly by the Civil War), the principal road to Oxford out of Holly Springs was aligned along this route. Hubert McAlexander to R. Milton Winter (October 24, 2002).

³ Rock outcroppings of this sort are very unusual in this part of the South.

intend the work. Col. Lumpkin was wealthy, owned much land and many slaves.

All seemed fair for the elegant life of a country gentleman. Only four miles from town and good neighbors for miles around. Immediate neighbors were the Nathaniel Smiths, the Henry A. Joneses, the John J. Wilkins', and the McKinneys.

They were Methodist and Presbyterian in faith, the Methodists attending Pleasant Grove Church, which had a large congregation, well within my time, but which was abandoned some years ago by the North Mississippi Conference for lack of membership.⁴

The close of the War of the Sixties found Col. Lumpkin, as well as so many others, land poor⁵ and in debt. Unable to complete the house, he roofed over some rooms and lived there until his death in the mid-seventies.⁶ While many of his descendants are living, of his immediate family a daughter, Mrs. William M. Strickland, Jr., of near Hudsonville alone survives.⁷

Col. Lumpkin was progressive and before the war had arranged with the Mississippi Central Railroad (now I. C. R. R.) for a flag station⁸ near

⁴ The McKinney name was recalled in a tiny Negro Presbyterian church out in the country east of Waterford. The McKinney Chapel functioned from 1922 until 1958. Names associated with the congregation were Pegues, Malone, Hamilton, and Moore—all surnames of former white planters in the area. *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 446.

⁵ A common expression in Mr. Mickle's day, this referred to those who owned extensive property which yielded crops that brought little in the depressed markets that prevailed almost constantly from Reconstruction through the Great Depression. High taxes often hamstrung landowners, who through indomitable pride stubbornly refused to give up their attempts to make farming pay.

⁶ Lumpkin lived in the unfinished house until his death in 1877. Later the Civilian Conservation Corps used the sandstone foundation stones from the unfinished house named "Morro Castle," to construct a pavilion by Spring Lake (formerly called Ford's Pond, referred to elsewhere in these pages) at Wall Doxey State Park. See information and photos in Miller-Smith, 51; and *Southern Tapestry*, 131.

⁷ Lorena Lumpkin (Mrs. William M. Jr.) Strickland, whose plantation home near Hudsonville was called "Mimosa Lodge." See *Civil War Women*, ix, 285.

⁸ Readers in the present generation may not know that a flag station is a point on the railroad where local trains would stop on notice to the conductor by those

his place for the convenience of his family, neighbors and guests.

BUILT NEAR FLOUR MILL

He also had a two-story brick flour mill and equipped with the best machinery. It was a water mill and to develop power two large ponds were dammed up, known as the big pond and the little pond.

The substantial levees remain until this day, though the ponds are now small, due to filling from soil erosion. The Holly Springs-Oxford highway cuts through the middle of the little pond.

The site of the ponds is the head of Little Spring Creek. They were located in an amphitheater of hills and numerous and in the earlier days copious springs furnished water to supply a fairly good-sized creek.

The wheat raised in the county was for home consumption, with surplus sold in nearby towns. There was a hopper for corn, but no cotton gin, as each plantation had its own gin, operated with mule power.

Lumpkin's Pond! The name will cause a thrill of reminiscence to old timers who read this. From antebellum days until the early nineties it was the pleasure ground of Marshall County.

The beeches that overhung its waters had listened to the honeyed words of the gallants and belles of the old South; and the sweetest story ever told was renewed by their children and grandchildren in later years.

The beeches were lettered to the top of the trunks with innumerable names and dates. The pond probably reached its high level of social interest in the spring of 1861 at the outbreak of the war, when the Home Guards, the Jeff Davis Rifles and possibly the Quitman Rifle Guards were camped out there for training before leaving for Pensacola. Of course the girls and the old folks from town and county crowded out to see them.

wishing to detrain, or in response to a signal from those on the ground wishing to board. The signal was made with a side-to-side motion across the track by the hands, a lantern, or flag. Scores of flag stops were listed in old timetables, and their prevalence accounted in large measure for the slow course which early trains made through the countryside.

FEDERALS BURNED THE MILL

The pond figured little otherwise in the war, except that the Federals burned the mill.

It was a great place for fish, lusty bass and other game fish, but not good fishing; due to quantities of moss in the pond, which harbored plenty of fish food.

Judge Falconer was the only one who was sure of a good catch; no one else seemed to learn his trick. Judge Falconer and his sons, Howard and Kinloch, died of yellow fever in 1878.

Lumpkin's Pond was one of the prettiest places in Marshall County. Almost surrounded by hills there was a high bluff to the west and a gulch that might have hidden the courthouse. Along the top of the bluff ran the narrow crazy county road, with just enough space between another hill and the gulch. Providentially no one was hurt or killed there.

Government engineers pronounced this gulch to be one of the worst cases of soil erosion in North Mississippi, and it has almost filled up the ponds.

Fed entirely by springs the waters of the ponds were clear and almost icy cold at all seasons, and this brought the saddest event in the history of the pond—the death by drowning of William A. Compton in the summer of 1889.

Compton was a most popular young fellow, pharmacist at the drug store of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Mal Butler—where the Tyson Drug store is now.

With a small party of friends he had gone to the pond and went in swimming immediately after lunch, was seized with cramps and sank.

Hundreds gathered there and the pond was dragged all night and until near noon before the body was recovered.¹

For various reasons people began to go to Ford's pond² in the nineties and Lumpkin's pond is now seldom visited.

¹ William A. Compton, born January 2, 1862, died June 5, 1889. His body rests in Hill Crest Cemetery.

² See photos in *Southern Tapestry*, 97.

17.

MRS. ANDERSON'S HOME DATES FROM FAR PAST.

Beautiful Bungalow on Chulahoma Avenue Built around Double Log Cabin
Which Was Erected Probably Before the Indians Left This Vicinity.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (July 2, 1931).¹ In passing the home of Mrs. Albert Anderson on beautiful Chulahoma Avenue one would not think that it was one of the pioneer homes of Holly Springs, built probably before the Indians left, and possibly the first house built on that avenue.

The original double log cabin, still a part of the house, was built by Jack Randolph, a brother of [Whitmel Sephas] Randolph who founded the town.²

Really, much of the house was built for the late Oscar Johnson in his park plan. Mr. Johnson bought a number of houses that with the exception of Dr. Norman Gholson's home³ extended with their lots from Mrs. Anderson's home east on Chulahoma, then north on Craft across West Van Dorn to West College, if I remember correctly.

All of these were torn down except the present homes of Mrs. Anderson, J. C. Tucker and George M. Buchanan. Two houses removed were of historical value, though possibly he could find no way to preserve them. One was the old Episcopal rectory, which stood on the site of Homer Powers' bungalow, and the other, further north, was the first Methodist Church, known later as the Forman home and in the seventies as the Abe Norfleet home. Bob Forman lived there

in the sixties, and this will help "us old folks" to identify it.⁴

ARCHITECT PRESERVED IDENTITY

Mr. Johnson planned to preserve the identity of these houses in remodeling and this was carried out by Mr. Link, a noted architect of St. Louis. Mr. Link designed the Mississippi state capitol.⁵

After a few years residence in the double log cabin and attic he had built, [John] Randolph sold it to the Rev. Daniel Baker,⁶ a Presbyterian minister, and moved away. The log cabin became the unofficial manse, as the Rev. C. S. Dod,⁷ who succeeded Mr. Baker also rented the cabin and lived there.

⁴Newcomers soon learn that Holly Springs is a town whose citizens are known for the quaint eccentricity of identifying old places by the names of owners long dead or landmarks long removed. A prime example is the designation of a spot known locally as "Buchanan Hill," on South Craft Street, even though Captain George M. Buchanan, owner of a house that stood there, has been gone for almost a century.

⁵ See *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 75.

⁶ Years later, Baker wrote, "I took possession of my log-cabin with devout feelings of gratitude and joy. I had a home, at last, and humble as it was, it was to me like a little palace. My labors were blessed as a pastor, and enjoying the affections, as I believed, of the people of my charge, I was a happy man." *The Life and Labors of the Rev. Daniel Baker* (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1858), 238. Due to many additions and remodelings the log parts of the home have been hidden within the massing of the house. In the early 1900s, the home was enlarged to its present appearance as part of the Johnson Park renovation.

⁷ Dr. Charles S. Dod, who came from a distinguished family of teachers and educators—two brothers were professors in Princeton College. He came to Holly Springs after having served as minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Augusta, Georgia and as a member of the faculty at Franklin College (now the

¹This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter* (December 10, 1931).

²The house, for many years known as "Alicia," is located at 240 West Chulahoma Avenue, and is presently the home of Miss May Alice Booker. See photo, *Southern Tapestry*, 120.

³That is, the two-story frame house at the northwest corner of South Craft Street and West Chulahoma Avenue, the home of Mrs. Robert S. Hill.

Daniel Baker was an outstanding pioneer preacher and left the impress of his sturdy Christian character upon Presbyterianism in the South.¹

A man of wonderful intellectual power and personal magnetism, Mr. Baker after his removal to Texas² from Holly Springs became one of the leading evangelists in the ante-bellum South, and his memory is perpetuated in Daniel Baker College, still a flourishing education institution in Texas.³

All three structures that have served as Presbyterian churches here still stand, and in the same block. Daniel Baker's church is the little

University of Georgia). While serving the Holly Springs Church he also taught in the Holly Springs Female Institute. After leaving Holly Springs in 1855, Dod served until 1861 as president of West Tennessee College in Jackson, now Union University. *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 110, 116-17.

¹ An evangelist and church planter, Daniel Baker (1791-1857) labored eight years in Holly Springs, using the town as a base for wide-ranging missionary journeys that carried him as far west as Colorado. As such he was responsible for the extension of the church into vast sections of the developing frontier. The most effective missionary of the Presbyterian Church in his generation, he is said to have brought more members into the church than any other Southern Protestant minister of the nineteenth century. His autobiography, *The Life and Labors of the Rev. Daniel Baker, D.D., Pastor and Evangelist* was widely read, and several anthologies list him as one of the leading figures in American religious history. See Ernest Trice Thompson, *Presbyterians in the South, 1607-1961*, 3 vols. (Richmond: John Knox Press, 1963, 1973), 1:340. His portrait hangs at Austin College in Texas, which he founded in collaboration with his friend General Sam Houston, who served as a member of the board, and at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. See information and photos in *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 65-110; *Southern Tapestry*, 29, 30, 32, 33, 120.

² Baker was a famous evangelist before he went to Texas, but during the troubled years after 1840 when many from Marshall County left their debts behind and put up crudely lettered signs proclaiming that they had "Gone to Texas," settlers from all over the country followed their hopes to this new frontier. Baker determined to take the Church to these people, and after several preliminary missions, was ready by 1848 to move to the Lone Star State, where he worked closely with General Sam Houston—a frequent visitor to Holly Springs in the early years.

³ *Southern Tapestry*, 29, 30, 32, 33, 120; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 65-95, 106-109. Daniel Baker's son also became a minister and published his father's autobiography.

frame office north of the City Hall and formerly known as Maj. [Addison] Craft's office;⁴ it is owned by Mayor C. N. Dean.⁵

Membership and wealth increasing, the present J. A. Miller building at the southwest corner of the square was built. The older living members of the congregation attended Sunday school there in their childhood.

The little Daniel Baker Church was moved to its present place and the walls of the present church were built on the site in 1860, but the church was not completed until after the war.⁶

CHURCH IN MILLER BUILDING

The Rev. C. S. Dod's church was in the Miller building. My good friend Mrs. W. A. Anderson, who so kindly helped me in this as well as some of my other stories, played with the little Dod children in her childhood, little dreaming that she would one day live there. She recalls going⁷ on an outing with them to Rocky Mountain.

Col. John McGuirk bought the log cabin from the Rev. Daniel Baker, who had written back from Texas that "it was the first home I ever owned, and seemed a little palace." Col. McGuirk added some rooms, one of which, the southwest, still stands.

It was known as the "McGuirk Place" in my time. Col. McGuirk had the reputation of enlisting more soldiers for the Confederacy than anybody around here. He was a druggist here before the war.

The children were among my earlier childhood friends, Walter, Kate (afterward Mrs. C. Fulton Smith), John and Will. It was a remarkably divided family in religion. Both were Irish (not Scots-Irish), Col. McGuirk native-born and a Ro-

⁴ This is the little frame building at 154 South Memphis Street, which until recently housed the Chamber of Commerce office.

⁵ See *It Happened Here*, 14-15; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 47, 48, 50.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 148-149, 152.

⁷ "Rocky Mountain" is a steep hill on the west side of Holly Springs, where the Hernando Road now crosses over the new U. S. Highway 78. A spring-fed stream ran nearby where the children had a favorite "swimmin' hole," and in the early years public executions were carried out there.

man Catholic, Mrs. McGuirk (a Miss Mahaffey) of Irish descent and an Episcopalian, and they were married here in Christ Church.

COMPROMISES RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES

They divided up the children fairly, Walter, Kate and John were Episcopalian; Will and one or two others, who died in childhood, were Roman Catholics. They seemed a very happy family, though, in spite of religious differences.¹

The McGuirk household was broken up after the death of the parents in the early seventies, and the house was rented to Capt. J. B. Mattison upon his return from Crawfordsville, Ind. A few years later Fult Smith and Miss Kate McGuirk married and lived there until their removal to Memphis in the early nineties.

John B. Howard, a brave Confederate soldier, and one of the most popular sheriffs Marshall County ever had, bought the place and lived there until his death. He was mayor at the time.

Oscar Johnson bought the place as a part of his park plan, and after it had been remodeled, rented it to W. A. Anderson, who lived there until his death in 1923. Mrs. Johnson, after her husband's death in 1916, sold the houses and park to the late M. A. Greene, and Mr. Anderson bought the house from him.

I went to school to Mr. Anderson at old Chalmers Institute. He was a most likable man, and the most just and impartial teacher I ever knew. His old pupils, scattered well over these United States, hold his memory in reverence and affection.²

¹ It should be remembered that the ecumenical rapprochement that currently prevails among most Episcopalians and Roman Catholics had yet to occur.

² Known to generations as "Uncle Ally," W. A. Anderson's pedagogical manner was not indulgent. Mason Jones, son of William A. and Margaret Mason Jones, recalled this incident involving future Memphis mayor and congressman Edward Hull Crump, who was reared in Holly Springs and attended the Holly Springs Public School under Anderson. Jones wrote that: "Anderson had been wounded in the Civil War leaving him with a stiff right arm. However else it handicapped him, it was useful for taking 'roundhouse swings' at students needing discipline." One year: "the classroom was so overcrowded that Edward was assigned to a stool behind Uncle Ally's desk. Once, as the teacher pursued a subject with the class, the boy quietly moved his stool by the blackboard and began

to draw pictures, attracting more attention to his artistry than Uncle Ally got for his teaching. Sensing that something was wrong, the master turned, and tiptoeing up behind the artist, swung at him, intending to unseat him from his perch. But the boy, seeing the blow coming, ducked quickly, and Uncle Ally's great swing knocked down the chimney to the stove. The room was filled with so much smoke and soot that school had to be dismissed." William D. Miller, *Mr. Crump of Memphis* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1917): 17.

18.

OLD MICKLE HOME A LOG CABIN LONG AGO.

Ante-Bellum Structure Now Occupied by the Sam Bookers Known
for Many Years Before and After War As McCulley Place.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (January 7, 1932). The recent death of Charles Niles Grosvenor, of Memphis, suggests for a story today the old Mickle Place on Chulahoma Avenue.¹

It was known before the War of the Sixties and for a while thereafter as the McCulley Place, and is now owned by C. C. Stephenson, Sr., and occupied by the Sam Bookers.

At first the entire square of ground belonged, but when Uncle Dabney H. Hull bought the place about 1870 for a home for his sister – my grandmother, Mrs. Jane H. Minor – he sold the east half of the lot to Cousin Brodie H. Crump, who used it for a pasture. It was called the “clover lot,” as clover was an unusual sight then.²

Mr. Crump lived in a beautiful cottage that stood on the site of Mrs. John Jarrett’s home.³ In the early nineties the late Mrs. Boling and her daughter, the late Mrs. Blanche Wilkins, built and occupied the residence on the clover lot,⁴

¹ The house stood at the southwest corner of Chulahoma Avenue and Minor Street, where the present First Baptist Church pastorum is now located.

² Minor Street, which runs south from its intersection with Chulahoma Avenue at the first corner east of the old Mickle lot, was named in memory of Dabney and Jane Minor.

³ That is, the two-story residence on the south side of Chulahoma Avenue, one house west of the intersection with Craft Street.

⁴ Almost every old Holly Springs house had a pasture lot adjoining the property. As Chesley Smith recalled, “My mother told me about the town when she was a child.... She would say, so and so lived at such and such place, and next to them was so and so’s pasture. Then I said, ‘Mother, half of the town must have been pastures,’ and she said, ‘It was.’” *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 94. Cows were grazed in the city until well within the memory of those now living. During the 1930s, the Rev. Raymond McBlain, rector of Christ Church, kept a cow, which grazed in Mrs. Edgar Francisco Jr.’s lot on the northern edge of Strickland’s Woods. Chesley Smith recalled that the

now the homes of the I. Groskinds⁵ and Miss Ella Fowler.⁶

Mr. Grosvenor, mentioned above, was born in Memphis and never lived here, but his mother, who was Miss Martha Niles, was born in Holly Springs, and, it is reasonably certain, in the old McCulley house.⁷

Mr. Niles, her father, moved to Memphis sometime before the war and became a banker of prominence.

The McCulleys also moved to Memphis, I believe, and some of their connections, whose names I cannot recall, are seen mentioned occasionally in the social and other news of Memphis.

HOME OF DR. WILLIS LEA

Dr. Willis Lea⁸ lived in the house for some time prior to our occupancy. He moved here after

cow was named “Sweetheart,” and that the rector tied a red bow to its horns each year at Christmas. When the family traveled to Sewanee in the summers, the cow was carried along in a special trailer behind the ministerial auto, so that the family might enjoy its supply of fresh milk uninterrupted. The conversion of pastures into house lots accounts for the interesting patchwork of old and new throughout the old neighborhoods of the city.

⁵ The Groskinds lived at 225 West Chulahoma Avenue, where the Harvey McCroskys are now.

⁶ The Fowler Place, still stands at 227 West Chulahoma Avenue. See Miller-Smith, 44.

⁷ Martha Niles was the daughter of Charles and Abigail Niles, who built the house known to-day as “Cuffawa” at 310 West Chulahoma Avenue, presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis M. Greer. Niles, who was the city’s postmaster, owned the property from 1838 to 1849. Martha married Hosea M. Grosvenor of Memphis. “Flush Times,” 2.

⁸ In an era before physicians were licensed and medical degrees required, Willis Monroe Lea, a native of Leesburg, North Carolina, was academically qualified for his profession. He was a graduate of that

his plantation home near Red Banks was destroyed by fire.¹ William Lea of this city is his grandson.

Dabney Hull left the place to my grandmother, and my mother, Lucy H. Mickle, inherited it from her.

Like a number of homes in Holly Springs the house started in pioneer days with a double log cabin and attics above. Mr. McCulley later added the two front rooms, that were among the handsomest in town. Both had folding doors that when thrown open, with the wide hall, made a large space for entertaining. We had many pleasant times there. The yard was prettier then than now, with a huge oak tree on either side of the house and a beautiful mimosa tree near the front gate. There was a wild cherry on the east side that was like a great bouquet when it bloomed.

My sister Jennie loved that mimosa tree and she and her husband, W. H. Anderson, now of Thonotassassa, Fla., planted shoots on their farm, now the Experiment Station. She planted another that still shades the Mickle and Anderson lots in Hill Crest Cemetery.

These lots, located in the older part of the cemetery, would not be desirable now, but we are sleeping or will sleep amid some excellent company, judged by the antebellum standards—the Charles Thomases, the Andrew Jacksons, Tunstalls, Williamsons, McGuirkss and Wooldridges.

I suppose the old pioneers had so much sentimental attachment for the log cabins that had

state's university, and received his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He came to Holly Springs about 1836 where, in partnership with Dr. Charles Bonner, he mixed planting and politics with the practice of medicine. Lea—for years president of the County Medical Association—had been one of Marshall County's delegates to the Mississippi Secession Convention (along with A. M. Clayton, Samuel Benton, J. W. Clapp, and H. W. Walter). He lost a son in the Civil War. A. M. Clayton, *Centennial Address*, 27; *Memoirs of Mississippi*, 2:264; Hamilton, 132; *Prodigal Daughter*, 5.

¹ Lea, whose plantation, "Wildwood," lay at the crossing of the Hernando Road with the road to Red Banks (an intersection still known as Lea's Crossing), built an impressive house on his plantation and opened another plantation in the Mississippi bottom, as the state's Delta region was then called. *Southern Tapestry*, 48.

sheltered them that they would not tear them down, but remodeled them.²

Mr. McCulley added an ell-room to the south and did some other remodeling. Dudley Featherston bought the house in 1895, tore out the log cabin and built some other rooms in its place. He also added the bay window in front. I and my brothers, Minor and Mercer, occupied that ell-room.

DELIGHTFUL NEIGHBORHOOD

It was a most delightful neighborhood on that street into which we moved in 1870. In the old manse³ lived Dr. and Mrs. Craig, the Brodie Crumps,⁴ the Mitchells, the McGuirkss, the James M. Scruggs, Stephen Knapps, Dr. P. A. Willises, Col. H. W. Walters, Capt. J. B. Mattison—and a little later the Joe E. Deans, the James Sims, and Mrs. Anderson and her sons, W. A., John E. and W. H. Anderson.⁵

² An architectural historian of Holly Springs, Leslie Frank Crocker, has noted that the old dog-trot cabins with their open central halls and flanking rooms did indeed have a great influence on later buildings—incorporated as they were in larger structures that literally rose up around them. Many examples can still be seen in Holly Springs. "The Greek Revival Architecture of Holly Springs, Mississippi," 2. See photos of early log cabins in Miller-Smith, 53; and *Southern Tapestry*, 12.

³ The old Presbyterian manse—the first actually owned by the church—was a modest one-and-a-half story dwelling that stood until the late 1990s at the southwest corner of Craft Street and Chulahoma Avenue. William F. Mason, who lived nearby, purchased the property and in 1855 built a home for the Rev. Henry H. Paine and his family. The property served until the house was sold and a larger manse was built on the south corner of the same block for the Rev. J. E. McJunkin and his family about 1923. The old house was torn down about 1995.

⁴ After the Civil War, Major Crump built a Victorian house on West Chulahoma Avenue. See photo, Miller-Smith, 48.

⁵ Inez Berryhill Adams, niece of Presbyterian minister, the Rev. C. Z. Berryhill, who lived with her aunt and uncle in the Presbyterian manse from 1907-1911, remembered that her uncle erected a basketball goal for the girls of the neighborhood. She wrote that "Our basketball team, 'the Johnson Neighborhood Idiots,' soon became a club. After playing ball, the members, Clara Leigh Jones, Amelia Francisco, Mary Barton Gholson, Elizabeth Calhoun, and I would go down to the Johnson house for our meetings. Clara Leigh's mother knew the Johnsons. They were wealthy because Mr. Johnson owned Johnson, Rand & Johnson Shoe Company, whose fine shoes were sold

Mercer Mickle, the youngest of us, was born in that house, and my grandmother and mother died there.

The late Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury was the most distinguished personage the house ever sheltered.

His sister, Cousin Betsy Holland, lived near Hudsonville, and her ashes rest in the little plantation cemetery. On a visit to her in my boyhood he and his daughter were guests of my grandmother, their kinswoman.

They were charming people and he was a very modest man, as really great men frequently are. One would never suspect to look at him that he had charted the seas and ships would still be sailing by his charts.

Commodore Maury had been of the old navy before the war, but of course went with Virginia when she seceded.

Shortly after the war the Czar of Russia made him a handsome offer in honors and pay to have him reorganize the Russian navy. But like Gen. Lee, he felt that he could not leave his people in their distress.¹

throughout the South. With its white columns, green shutters and stately balconies, shaded by blooming shrubs, elegant magnolia trees, and sweet-smelling flowering vines, their house was as imposing as any large plantation's. Our club met in the garden, enjoying the refreshments that Mrs. Johnson supplied." *The Class of 1912*, 26-27. Another interesting description of the neighborhood was penned by Mary Virginia Grigsby Foley, another child of the manse, whose father, the Rev. Dr. S. L. Grigsby, was the Presbyterian minister (1897-1904). See her *Memories of Childhood in Holly Springs* (Medford, Ore.: privately published, 1981).

¹ After the Civil War, Elizabeth Davis Watson, of Holly Springs, named a school in the city for Commodore Maury. See Francis L. Williams, *Matthew Fontaine Maury: Scientist of the Sea* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1965). *Civil War Women*, 114.

19.

LONE, TOWERING PINE MARKS AUTRY PLACE.

Its Stalwart Dignity Symbolical of the Character of Men Sheltered at Old Homestead.—Two War Heroes Now Rest in Hill Crest.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (April 9, 1931). A lone, towering pine was until a few years ago one of the most conspicuous objects on East Van Dorn Avenue. It stood in the yard of the old Greer or Autry Place—now known as the Sam Rather Place—at the corner of Van Dorn and Walthall.¹

Pine is not a native of this part of Marshall County and this served to render this sturdy sentinel of the forest more impressive. It died a few years ago and was cut down.

In its stalwart dignity it was symbolical of the men it has sheltered, or who were linked with the Autrys and Greers, and the noble men and women who are high among the cherished memories of old Holly Springs.

James L. Autry and James M. Greer are names to conjure with. Due to his youth Judge Greer got into the war game only in its closing days and did not have opportunity to win glory on the field. Civil life was to be his arena.

Col. Autry was among the first to answer Mississippi's call for her quota of troops for the Confederacy, and went out as third lieutenant in the Home Guards. He fell in battle at the head of his regiment.²

¹ This home, erected in 1839, now much-remodeled, stands at the northeast corner of East Van Dorn Avenue and North Walthall Street.

² James Lockhart Autry was born in 1830 near Nashville. His father fell at the Alamo, and his mother moved shortly after that to Holly Springs. He attended St. Thomas Hall and entered the practice of law, forming a firm with L. Q. C. Lamar and C. H. Mott. He served as state representative from Marshall County from 1854 to 1859, and was Speaker of the House during the final two years of his service. He was Confederate military governor of Vicksburg. He was killed at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, with the Twenty-Seventh

Of all Marshall County soldiers who fought in the war, and fell or lived to come home, three stood out because they were loved—there was honor, gratitude and appreciation for all of her soldiers, whether of high rank or not, living or dead. But something about these besides courage and daring raised them in public affection.

These three were Col. James Autry, Col. Kit Mott and Col. Samuel Benton. All died in battle and their honored ashes rest here in Hill Crest Cemetery.

LOVED SPIRIT OF BATTLE

Col. Autry loved the spirit of battle. A visitor from home asked how long he thought the war would last. Col. Autry replied that for the sake of his country and his people he hoped it would end soon; but as for himself he did not care if it lasted always. His was the same spirit that prompted Gen. R. E. Lee to say: "It is well that war is so terrible, or we would grow to like it."

Another citizen soldier is connected with the old home, Micajah Autry. On the family monument in Hill Crest Cemetery is engraved: "Micajah Autry-1793-1836. One of the Alamo Martyrs."

His body lies, I believe in Texas, probably in San Antonio where he fell battling for the freedom of Texas. I remember his widow, Mrs. Martha Wyche Autry, who lived here. He died the year Holly Springs was founded.³

Mississippi Infantry. See James Greer, "James Lockhart Autry," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, Centenary Series* (1916), 1:457-60; Hamilton, 95; *Southern Tapestry*, 42, 62; see photo, p. 64.

³ See *Southern Tapestry*, 33.

my childhood. Then a few years later I first met Harry, Gus, Fult and Ed Smith, who were then living there. All have gone out except Harry Smith, who lives in Dallas, Texas.

Now, Judge James M. Greer of Beaumont, Texas; sometimes of Memphis and Holly Springs; I have not forgotten "your tree," and thereby hangs a tale.

The late Harry Colart, prominent Memphis Odd Fellow and railroad official, accepted several years ago an invitation to address Holly Springs Lodge, I. O. O. F.

Meeting his friend Judge Greer, who then lived in Memphis, Mr. Colart told him of his intended mission that evening, and added with some pride: "I used to live in Holly Springs."

PRIDE IN BIRTH HERE

"I've got you beat," replied Judge Greer, "I was born in Holly Springs; and more than that, on the day I was born a tree was planted in the yard—and it is still flourishing."

Yes, Judge, your tree is still flourishing and bearing pecans, and it is as fine a specimen of a tree as you are a man, and I hope God will spare you both for many years.

While my acquaintanceship with Judge Greer was more associated with Memphis, for he moved there shortly after the war, he stands out in memory in two events connected with Holly Springs, when I listened to two instances of his many-sided power of oratory.

He made a wonderful address at the unveiling of the Confederate monument in Hill Crest Cemetery about twenty-five years ago, and I am glad Mrs. W. A. Anderson has preserved that speech in her scrapbook.

The second was when he assisted the state in the prosecution of Bob Morgan for killing Lyman Wooldridge in the nineties. Mrs. Wooldridge was a relative of Judge Greer.

Wooldridge was a remarkably fine shot. Kitt Dean told me that he saw him shoot three snakes' heads off in succession before they could dodge under the water.

Jim Buck Jones, grotesque in figure and speech, was the witness needed to round out the mosaic of the defense. James R. Jones was a member of one of two snappy baseball teams here then and a game was on that afternoon after court.

Some genius of a rooster dubbed him Jim Buck and it stuck; few know that it is not his real name.

The Morgan trial was one of the hottest legal contests of my time and an incident illustrates to what tests a lawyer's fidelity to his client may be put.

The infant of Charley Mitchell of Pontotoc, of counsel for the defense, was critically ill when the case opened. Word came that the babe was dying, and then that it was dead—"but the show must go on."

20.

M. S. COLLEGE ANNEX ONCE BEAUX' RESORT.

Long Occupied by Uncle John Hull and Named "The Corner" by Boys
of the Gay Nineties—Interesting History also to Shumacker House.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (December 18, 1930).¹ The mention of "The Corner," will call up to nearly every old beau of the town, or in other places where they have cast their lot, memories that they will long linger over; and there will be an involuntary adjustment of collars and ties as if about to enter its hospitable doors.

"The Corner" is now known as the M. S. College Annex, and stood before its removal to its present site to make way for the main building of the college, at the corner of College and Randolph Street, facing on College. It is one of the oldest houses in town.²

Visions of its lovable and hospitable mistress and her attractive daughters will come back in this pre-Christmas week, and visions of the good times had there. "The Corner" was so named by

the boys of the Gay Nineties, for its owners never gave it a name.³

I never learned who built the house, but the late Dr. John S. Burton told me he was born there, though all of his recollections were of the Burton home on South Memphis Street, the family having moved there in his infancy. Descendants of John Hull have traditional information that he built it.

My first knowledge of the place through information, for it was in the fifties before I was born, was as the residence of Uncle John Hull,⁴ who moved there from "East End," his suburban home on Salem Road, now owned and occupied by John Parker. Across the road was "Tuckehoe," home of William Crump, now owned as a home by the widow of Zach Hill.⁵

These two Crump and Hull families were doubly related, a brother and sister marrying a brother and sister. The love of the land was so strong in these early settlers that when they moved to town they often located as far out as possible. Mr. Hull subsequently moved to "The Corner."

¹ This article was reprinted in abridged form in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² The colonnaded Hull Place was for many years the home of the John Hull family. During a raid by Federal soldiers in the Civil War, their nephew, Captain Edward H. Crump, was sitting on the veranda, his horse tied at the gate, when the cry, "the Yankees are coming," rang out. No time, nowhere to hide horse and rider, but Mrs. Hull—a colorful character of those days—rose to the occasion: "Quick, Ed, bring the horse into the parlor." And so he did, both hiding behind the heavy portieres as the Northern troops dashed on. Later the home was owned by the John S. Finleys, and eventually became part of the North Mississippi Presbyterian College. It originally stood at the northeast corner of College Avenue and North Randolph Streets. In 1903, the house was moved to the southeast corner of Randolph Street and Falconer Avenue to make way for a new administration building at Mississippi Synodical College. "The Annex," as the old house came to be called, was used for classroom purposes. After the college closed in 1939, the house was demolished; see photos, *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 325, 363.

³ At age 103, Inez Berryhill Adams recalled her days at Mississippi Synodical College. She said that "of the two missions of the college—intellectual attainment and correct deportment—I never managed to determine which carried the most importance by the faculty, mostly composed of prim and proper women who guided our learning in academic subjects, as well as our character." *The Class of 1912*, 35.

⁴ See *Civil War Women*, 22, 238.

⁵ The Crump Place was east of Holly Springs. During the Civil War, William Crump (1806-1873) had been a Unionist, and Mildred Thomson Strickland had written to her husband, June 8, 1862, that "Some men hate to burn their cotton so much. I bet old Crump will hide some." *Civil War Women*, 259; see also *Behind the Lines in the Southern Confederacy*, 57-60.

CLOSER FAMILY CONNECTIONS

"The Corner" seemed to have been dedicated to the beaux and belles. Mr. Hull was the first of the Old Salem families to move to Holly Springs and naturally enough his nieces from Old Salem visited his home. There was much closer connections between families then than now. His wife was Aunt Ann Crump Hull.

Then there were his daughters, Misses Susan (Mrs. William Lea of Memphis; mother of Will Lea of this city) and Betsy (the late Mrs. John S. Finley, mother of Mrs. Ann Craft of this city). And later his granddaughters, Ann, Augusta and Susie Finley. The Finley-Hull marriage was the first wedding I ever attended.

Mrs. Finley sold the place to Dr. T. W. Raymond, now of Thonotosassa, Fla., but then president of M. S. College, and moved to Memphis. Dr. Raymond sold it to the college some years later.

The Shumacker house, a two-story brick, stands just across College Avenue from the site of the Hull-Finley house. It was built by a Mr. Shumake, but when I first knew it, in early childhood, Dr. Smith lived there.¹ He returned to Lamar shortly after the war and engaged in business, and died there years later; recall only two of his children, Miss Mollie and Bille. The latter moved to Covington, Tenn.

A long wooden bench stood outside of the sidewalk under the trees, which the boys called "The Roost,"² and here gathered such choice spirits in their youth as Brodie Hull, Billie Smith, Jim and Ed Watson,³ Yates and Russell Freeman,

¹ Dr. Gray Washington Smith, a physician-planter from Lamar, *Southern Tapestry*, 31, 107.

² Inez Berryhill Adams, whose uncle Charles Z. Berryhill was minister of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church during the years she attended Mississippi Synodical College, wrote that "Mrs. Raymond protected us from the boys, an act my dad greatly appreciated. When the trains arrived bringing the new students, Mrs. Raymond went to the station, stood at the train's bottom step, and, as if to curtsey, pulled out her full skirt to shield the newcomers from any possible view by the local boys, who never failed to try catching a glimpse." *The Class of 1912*, 41.

³ Edward Minor Watson (1851-1887), son of Judge and Mrs. J. W. C. Watson, went on to become President Grover Cleveland's Assistant U. S. Attorney General.

Tom Nelson,⁴ Lee and Alex Chism and Mason Dancy, along College Street, and doubtless Jim Greer, Will Strickland⁵ and John McCarroll⁶ just over on "Depot" Street. They were a jolly bunch.

Some of them had rigged up a windmill with a man endlessly turning a windlass on the roof of Mrs. Hull's house. I also recall Brodie Hull's grizzly dog, "Major."

A family named Cooper next occupied the house. They came from the North during the carpetbag regime and I believe Mr. Cooper was sheriff. Later he had a tin shop, which was a bigger thing than it sounds, as these shops manufactured all of their tinware and sent it out in wagons over North Mississippi to sell.

I went to Sunday school at Christ Church with Lizzie, John and Ben Cooper, and with the boys to school at Chalmers Institute. The family moved to Nashville in the mid-seventies and I heard that Lizzie entered an Episcopal convent.

⁴ Son of the James H. Nelson, who was murdered in Holly Springs by Confederate marauders at the end of the Civil War.

⁵ William M. Strickland Jr., called Buddie in the family circle, who married the former Miss Lorena Lumpkin and farmed his father's old plantation near Hudsonville. See *Civil War Women*, ix.

⁶ Son of longtime Marshall County sheriff John R. McCarroll. The McCarroll Place cottage—built in 1836 by his cousin Byrd Hill—still stands at 285 East Van Dorn Avenue. John R. McCarroll was sheriff for thirty years (1839-1869). "Reconstruction in Marshall County," 182-83. The home consists of two log cabins rolled together and connected by a porch from which the only communication between the various rooms was possible. A rear doorway from the parlor to this porch shows that the cabin was once separate from the rest of other parts of the house further back. It is likely that the house was built before what is now Van Dorn Avenue was laid out, for the house is not "square" with the street it faces. The home originally faced west, and the original part is the long ell that extends to the rear. The brick kitchen and slave quarters was added even later. An interesting story about this house is that during General Van Dorn's raid on the town, a wounded Federal soldier crawled into the house and passed away in the front room. Fearing retaliation, the McCarrolls buried the soldier in the woods behind the house. The grave is unmarked, and remains a scene of melancholy repose. Ruth Bitzer Francisco, "126 Years of Family History Treasured at McCarroll Place," *Holly Springs South Reporter* (April 22, 1960).

BOUGHT BY GEN. WILLIAMSON

The late Gen. H. E. Williamson bought the Shumake-Smith house and lived there many years. His wife, Mrs. Darthula Williamson, was one of the most kind and lovable women I ever knew. It was a popular place with the young people, as their daughter and son, Miss Mal and Ben, were active in social affairs.¹

Miss Mal Williamson married Harry C. Smith, uncle of L. A. Smith, Sr., and they now live in Dallas, Texas. Ben Williamson married for his first wife Miss Lou Smith, niece of the late Col. F. A. Lucas, one of the most beautiful and popular belles of my time. Their daughter, Mrs. Etta Seale, lives on Salem Avenue.

Gen. Williamson's younger son, Harry E. Jr., is a prosperous businessman of Galveston.

The town owes Gen. Williamson a debt of gratitude, for it was under his administration as mayor that many of the beautiful trees that line the streets were planted.²

The late R. Shumacker bought the house from Gen. Williamson about 1880 and the family lived there until a few years ago. His son, Dr. Leo Shumacker of Chattanooga is a diagnostician of wide reputation, whose nephew, a son of Harry B. Shumacker of Arkansas, now a medical student, gives promise of following in his uncle's footsteps.

J. C. Shumacker is the only one of the family living here now; Mrs. R. Shumacker spends her time with her children, Ike lives in Memphis, Dan, Adolph and Mrs. N. V. Seessel live in Chattanooga and Mrs. Selma Frankenstein in Dallas.

Shumacker Bros. composed of Dan, Ike and Adolph conducted a large dry goods store for many years.³

The old house was of magnificent proportions in the way of rooms, the largest, I believe,

¹ General Henry E. Williamson was born in "The Hermitage," home of General Andrew Jackson, while his parents were visiting there.

² See also *It Happened Here*, 32-33.

³ Chesley Smith remembered the store on the south side of the square, which became Myer's, handling good merchandise—ladies' ready-to-wear and dry goods. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 89.

in town, and in my young days was crowned with an observatory from which good views could be had.

M. S. College bought it and had the interior remodeled to house the family of the president, Dr. Robert F. Cooper, and the seniors.⁴

⁴ See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 362-63; *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 93; *It Happened Here*, 32-33. The house, built in 1844 or 1848, by merchant Francis Shumake, and one of the few antebellum homes in Holly Springs that survive with influences of the Federal style of architecture, is located at 225 East College Avenue. During the Civil War it was the home of Dr. Gray Washington Smith, a planter from Lamar, Mississippi. It was named "Linden Terrace" because of the lindens Mayor Williamson planted there. Linden Terrace is to-day the home of Mr. James R. and Mrs. Sofia Dunworth of Balboa, Panama and Holly Springs. See information and photos, *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 93; *Southern Tapestry*, 31, 33.

21.

OLD BOLING HOUSE IN HISTORIC HOOK-UP.

Situated on Approximately the Same Site as the Home of
[Whitmel] Sephas Randolph, Who Founded Holly Springs in 1836.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (December 17, 1931).¹ The old Boling house on Randolph Street where Henry Gatewood lives, is not so old as some of us had thought, but there is a hook-up that connects it with the earliest history of Holly Springs.

On approximately the same site [Whitmel] Sephas Randolph, who founded Holly Springs in 1836, built his two-story home and lived there until he moved to Panola County near Sardis. He was a kinsman of John Randolph of Roanoke, famed among the Virginia Randolphs.²

Mrs. D. B. Wright's mother was a daughter of Sephas Randolph, and her parents, Ben L. Milam and Adaline Randolph, were married in that house in 1850, and went to live at the Milam plantation twelve miles south of the city. Mrs. Wright and her sister, Mrs. France of Greenville, alone survive.

Spires Boling bought the house in 1858 from "W. S. Randolph and wife." Mrs. Wright informs me that this house was burned during the war, and hence the present structure does not date back to antebellum days, as I and many others had thought.³

Mr. Boling was a contractor and built the present house after the war. He may have constructed the Lester Fants' house and I am almost sure he constructed the present Masonic building, about 1870.⁴ Mart Leach once told me that

Mr. Boling, who was also a distiller,⁵ offered the Masonic Lodge a turnkey job if they would give him a ten year lease on the ground floor, or possibly half of it, to sell whiskey in.

The lodge declined, and financed it by using bonds. The bondholders had to take it over, and when finally sold got little of their money back when it was sold some ten years later.

ITALIAN BROKE WINDOWS

Joe Pendola, an Italian who had a saloon back of Rather's Drug Store⁶ for awhile after the

a discussion of his work, see Hubert H. McAlexander, "Spires Boling of Holly Springs: Carpenter, Master Builder, Architect," printed as an Appendix to this book, pp. 395-97; also *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 151, *Southern Tapestry*, 39, 49, 69.

⁵ Boling did construction work and ran the distillery in the off season. Thousands of distilleries dotted America in the nineteenth century, the fermentation process being the only way to preserve the value of corn over long periods of time. These were purely local industries, some with no more than a dozen customers. William E. Woodward writes that "the distiller—whose real occupation was farming, or running a store, or a blacksmith shop—had a still in his back yard. There was no tax on liquor, none at all, and anybody who had the inclination might make and sell it." *The Way our People Lived: An Intimate American History* (New York: Liveright, 1963): 193.

⁶ The store was located at the corner of Van Dorn Avenue and South Center Street. Years later, Chesley Smith recalled how children used to play with the seeds for sale in the Rather store. "Down the center of his store was a long table with built-in, open boxes, each holding a different variety of seed. While sliding through your fingers, the tiniest ones felt the best with each variety having a different feel. I can't imagine why he allowed us to handle the seeds, but I can't remember ever scattering the seeds on the floor or into the wrong boxes. Also, we used to go to Rather's for our textbooks and school supplies, which consisted mostly of tablets and pencils. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 90.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Issue* (December 15, 1932).

² Later writers have sometimes given Randolph's name as William. See *Southern Tapestry*, 10-13.

³ The Randolph house apparently burned in the early 1850s.

⁴ Though not an academically-trained architect, Boling was regarded as a master builder. He is known to have built the Walter Place, and his architectural signature seems to have been the use of octagons. For

war, owned some bonds and came back in the early eighties to see about them, and on learning conditions went to the lodge room on the third floor and smashed the front windows, which made a great clatter in falling to the wooden awning below.

Boling's three-story distillery, later known as Johnson's Mill, was located in the north part of the Spring Hollow, which gave Holly Springs its name. I feel sure it was built before the war, and Mr. Boling operated it for a few years after the war. He fattened a great many hogs on the swill that remained after distilling.

In the late sixties a distressing accident occurred, when his little son, "Babe" Boling, who was amusing himself running over the plank across the swill tub, fell in. He was terribly scalded, and lived about three days in great agony.¹

Mr. Boling had several sons and daughters; Walter Boling was my schoolmate at Chalmers Institute; and Miss Nannie Boling was one of the belles of the sixties and early seventies.

JUDGE GORDENTIA WAITE BOUGHT PLACE

The late Judge Gordentia Waite acquired the property, including the residence and the abandoned distillery and rented them to the late J. B. Johnson, who lived and operated a water mill and gin on Chewalla Creek. Johnson's mill pond was a good place for picnics and fishing.²

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and six sons moved to Holly Springs and into the old Boling house. Mr. Johnson converted that old distillery into a cot-

¹ This incident occurred just after a large temperance meeting had been held in Holly Springs. Thirteen-year-old Belle Strickland told of this in her diary, and recorded on June 9, 1868, that: "Mr. Boling's little son fell into a tub of boiling water and is nearly if not quite dead. I have not heard anything of him to-day, but I hope he is better. He was scalded from his feet to his breast." The next day Belle wrote that "Mr. Boling's little son died yesterday at eleven o'clock, and will be buried at three this afternoon. I heard afterwards that he fell into a pit or something of the sort, for his father keeps a distillery." Belle, who was reared in the Baptist Church, remarked that "I think that ought to be a warning to him to stop keeping a distillery." *Civil War Women*, 204-205, 207-208.

² Marshall County once had many gristmills, some powered by water, others by the labor of men and animals. See *Southern Tapestry*, 25, 87, 97.

ton gin and gristmill about 1880. The mill was destroyed by fire some years ago.³

The mill stood several hundred yards back of the residence and near it was a spring house which protected a large bold spring. Waterworks and telephones had not been installed in Holly Springs,⁴ and the Johnson boys rigged up an ingenious wire arrangement that carried a bored well bucket by gravity to the spring, and it could be drawn back when filled. With a wire and two tin pans they installed telephone communication between the house and the mill.⁵

Some years before his death the late Lafayette Gatewood of Slayden bought the property and he and Mrs. Gatewood lived there until their death. Henry Gatewood now owns it.

The house stands at the head of Salem Avenue and the north line of Section 6 runs west through the hall. The township line also runs through it.

The east and north lines of Section 6 corner where West Street (or Experiment Station Road), enters Salem Avenue, the north line running west within four feet of the property line of Frank Wall's residence.

The east line runs south through the hall of the McDowell home.

³ See *Southern Tapestry*, 87.

⁴ Telephone wires were strung in Holly Springs in 1883. *Southern Tapestry*, 82.

⁵ Chesley Smith recalled that in the very early days of telephones, "two telephone companies operated in Holly Springs. The two lines were not connected, and papa, my Grandfather Daniel, who was a doctor, had patients with different lines, so the Daniels had two telephones, one with each company." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 35.

22.

WALTER-JOHNSON-GREENE HOME FAMOUS SHOW PLACE OF THIS CITY.

Built in the Fifties By Colonel Harvey W. Walter, Occupied by General Grant During the Civil War and Handsomely Restored by Oscar Johnson About Thirty Years Ago at Great Expense.

HOLLY SPRINGS (December 4, 1930).¹ Walter! It was a name to conjure with, and instantly calls to mind a stately home behind grand old oaks and maples, built in the late fifties,² the courtly father and gracious mother, the attractive daughters and strong, manly sons; and a hospitality that seemed inexhaustible.

Col. Harvey W. Walter was from Michigan, and in early manhood settled here long before the war. I believe he went first to Salem and taught school. Salem, which was a live village then and in a fine neighborhood, would have attracted him. He began the practice of law in Holly Springs and soon took front rank in the strong bar of early days.³

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² Walter Place at 325 West Chulahoma Avenue, the largest and most exuberant mansion in Marshall County and North Mississippi, was erected in the great building boom of 1859, just preceding the Civil War. It was the last flower of the Greek Revival period in the South—with the castellated octagonal towers on each side representing a playful departure from the classical model. The home has been elaborately restored and enlarged by its present owners, Michael and Jorja Swaney Lynn, of Holly Springs. See J. Frazer Smith, *White Pillars: The Architecture of the South* (New York: Bramhall, 1946): 95-97; *Southern Tapestry*, 49, see photos, pp. 39, 107, 131, 160-61; Miller-Smith, 29-30, 93, 98; *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 184-86; *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 88-89.

³ Harvey Washington Walter (1819-1878) was one of the distinguished citizens of the county. Born in Ohio, his family took him as a child to Kalamazoo, Michigan. In 1838, his father having lost everything, young Walter came South to teach school at Salem, Mississippi, where he remained two years. In 1840, at the age of 21, he was admitted to the bar, and began practice in Holly Springs. An energetic young attorney, he courted several daughters of the planter aristocracy, before marrying—in 1849—Miss Fredonia

At Mississippi's first call for troops he went out as first lieutenant in the Jeff Davis Rifles, which with the Home Guards and Quitman Rifles were sent to Pensacola, Fla., where apparently the Confederate military authorities forgot them for a year.⁴

These soldiers considered themselves out of luck, with all of the fighting and glory to be had in Virginia, and some of the more restive slipped off up there and re-enlisted. The military authorities took little notice of these "desertions," realizing that the boys were not shirking duty. And as if to add insult to injury they were numbered with the Ninth Mississippi instead of the First Mississippi, as they were entitled to be, to add fresh laurels, as they were capable of doing, to that historical regiment, which was commanded in the Mexican War by no less a soldier than Jefferson Davis.⁵

Gen. Grant made the Walter house his residence while his army occupied Holly Springs

Brown, of Lafayette County, whose father was one of the most active land speculators in the country and a great planter. It was Walter who first projected a railroad from Canton, Mississippi to Jackson, Tennessee, and who was instrumental in bringing about the construction of the Mississippi Central line. A Whig before the Civil War, he opposed secession as long as possible, but then served in the Confederate army with the rank of colonel. After the war, he helped restore peace in the community, and met his death while trying to minister to the needs of sufferers during the yellow fever. See *Mississippi: Sketches*, 2:894-95; *Memoirs of Mississippi*, 2:974-77; Hamilton, 118-19; *Southern Tapestry*, 46-49; see photo, p. 80.

⁴ For a chronicle of the "forgotten" soldiers at Pensacola, see George F. Pearce, *Pensacola During the Civil War: A Thorn in the Side of the Confederacy* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2000).

⁵ Walter served on the staff of General Braxton Bragg, with the rank of Colonel.

prior to his advance on Vicksburg,¹ and the story is told that Gen. Van Dorn in his famous raid personally headed the search of Gen. Grant's residence.² Theoretically nothing is sacrosanct from military necessity and Van Dorn was about to enter Mrs. Grant's room (Gen. Grant was farther south with troops), when Mrs. Govan, who had

¹ A letter exists in Walter's handwriting, inviting General and Mrs. Grant to make their home at Walter Place for as long as they were in the vicinity.

² Julia Dent Grant describes the house and events there in her memoirs. She recalled that "From LaGrange, we went to Holly Springs....I missed the General, who had been obliged to move on two days before I arrived at Holly Springs. He left a kind letter, however, telling me how much he regretted not meeting me, and as soon as the [rail]road was finished through to Oxford he would have me come to him. Jesse [their son] was with me and Jule, my nurse and maid, slave born and brought up at my old Missouri home. Colonel [Theodore S.] Bowers of the General's staff had secured very nice quarters for us in a fine house belonging to Mr. Walker [sic], who, I think, had formerly been a cabinet officer at Washington. [Mrs. Grant's recollection is incorrect.] It was occupied by the wife of a Confederate officer. [Mrs. Walter and her children had refugee to Alabama, and the house was occupied by Mrs. Eaton Pugh Govan, a daughter of Dr. Francis Hawks, former rector of Christ Church, and her children]. She was a fine, noble woman, as so many of these Southern women were. The ladies sat up late to receive me, which was very kind, and after being refreshed by a light supper, I was conducted to my apartment by Madam _____. Before bidding me goodnight, she said, 'Breakfast will be about nine o'clock,' and said that she would have it announced to me. At breakfast I felt happy. I did not realize for a moment that I was actually in the enemy's camp until, arising from the table with the family, we entered the hall, and I naturally, or thoughtlessly, turned towards the door of the drawing room where I had been received the night before; when suddenly the hostess stepped forward, and placing her fair hand on the doorknob, said, 'excuse me, Mrs. Grant, but I have set aside a drawing room for your use.' Only imagine my chagrin and mortification. I realized instantly my mistake, and feeling that I had turned very pale, I said 'thank you' and waited for her to indicate the room. It was a large, front drawing room on our right. I never entered their apartments except by special and very pressing invitation. Once, when these ladies were calling on me, they learned that I had never heard any of their rebel war songs, so they begged me to come in and hear some of them, and I went. They sang grandly, with power, pathos, and enthusiasm. The young ladies asked me how I liked their national songs, saying I must come in again and listen to them. I answered, 'no, never again. I would be a traitor to listen again to such songs.'" *The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant*, 105-106.

the house in charge, intercepted him with: "General, that is Mrs. Grant's private room." Gen. Van Dorn bowed and left with his guard. What military secrets were left in that room?³

STUDENTS AT OLD CHALMERS

My earliest acquaintance with the Walter family and the house began when we moved in 1870 to the McCulley Place, which became known then as the Mickle Place, a short distance east of the Walter Place. I was sent to Chalmers to school and met Jimmie and Harvey Walter, the latter about my own age.⁴

³ By Julia Grant's recollection, she had gone south with the General in advance of Van Dorn's raid. But in the aftermath of the raid, "I was told that some of Van Dorn's staff officers rode up to the house of which I had lately been an inmate and asked for me. My hostess assured them I was not there, that I had gone the previous evening to visit General Grant. They demanded my baggage, and this also the kind and noble lady protected by her earnest and personal request. The loss of this baggage, little as there was of it, would have entailed endless annoyance." *The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant*, 106. Maria Mason wrote that when the Confederate soldiers came rushing in, "Mrs. Govan met them at the head of the stairs and said, 'Soldiers, it doesn't become Southern gentlemen to enter a lady's bedroom,' and they all turned back leaving the coveted prize in a bureau drawer." "Van Dorn's Raid into Holly Springs," *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (May 30, 1901). Other accounts state that when Grant returned to Walter Place, he jovially said to Mrs. Govan, "The North owes you a great debt of gratitude, for all my papers were in a trunk in my wife's room." Mrs. Govan, who was an ardent Southerner, is said to have burst into tears and was hardly able to speak to Grant after that. A similar account told to Julian Street by Mary Govan Billups at Columbus, Mississippi, *It Happened Here*, 64. See *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (March 5, 1933); J. G. Deupree, "The Capture of Holly Springs, Mississippi."

⁴ Oft referred to by Mr. Mickle was Chalmers Institute, his *alma mater*, organized in 1847 by the Rev. Samuel McKinney, a scholarly Presbyterian, born in County Antrim, Ireland, March 19, 1807, who had immigrated with his family in 1812, to settle in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He had studied at the University of Pennsylvania, where he changed his field of study from medicine to theology. After service on the frontier, he came to Shelby County, Tennessee, after which he devoted his entire time to teaching. He then served as President of West Tennessee College in Jackson. The Holly Springs school was named for Scotland's Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847), whose leadership in the ecclesiastical struggles of 1843 helped bring religious freedom to Scotland. (His actions enjoyed great support among American Presbyterians.)

Other boys along the street and pupils at Old Chalmers were Charley Mattison, Walter and John McGuirk, Henry Mitchell, Marion Knapp, George and Clarence Willis and Charley Harper. Just back of us was John Chew, now rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd at Newburg, N. Y.

Col. Walter was one of the most public-spirited men I ever knew, and the call on his time from social and community affairs was incessant—whether as a comforter in the house of

The building which housed the school, near the corner of what is now West Boundary Street and West Chulahoma Avenue, was built in 1837. *Besanson's Register of Mississippi for the Year 1838* described it as "a brick edifice, two stories high accommodating 120 scholars." It had housed the unsuccessful enterprise enthusiastically chartered as "the University of Holly Springs." Three years later, when the school was reorganized on a more modest scale, it was called Chalmers Institute. Though not a Presbyterian institution, the academy always had a Presbyterian cast. The Rev. Daniel Baker, pastor of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church, served on Chalmers' board, and developed a close friendship with McKinney, who eventually went with him to Texas and helped found Austin College there. McKinney built a brick residence up the street from Chalmers, near the home of his friend Baker, on the site where "Walter Place" was constructed in 1859. The school developed a strong rivalry with St. Thomas Hall, the military institute established by the Episcopal Church in 1844 on the opposite end of town. In 1854, Chalmers added military training. Three years later the Rev. Samuel Irwin Reid bought the Chalmers property and added the eastern rooms. (The original building had space for a large schoolroom on both floors with a stair hall on the eastern end. The campus included another large building, as well as a two-story dormitory, both of which disappeared with the passing of time.) The school closed in the Civil War, but Reid reopened it after peace was restored. (Unlike St. Thomas Hall and the Female Institute, the Chalmers building survived.) For several years, all Holly Springs boys who received anything beyond a rudimentary education, attended Chalmers. Enrollment records have been preserved and a list of students attending reads like a "who's who" of Mississippi's nineteenth century history. W. A. Anderson was headmaster from 1869 until the school closed again in the wake of the yellow fever in 1878. The building—the oldest brick structure in Holly Springs—still stands lonely and deserted near the corner of Chulahoma Avenue and West Boundary Street. In 2000, it was placed on the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's list of the state's ten most endangered historic landmarks. See information and photos in *Southern Tapestry*, 20, 30, 69, 82, 116, 160; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 103-104, 272-73; *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 154; *Written in the Bricks*, 89.

mourning, a political or community affair, or some social function.

He loved the society of young people, and entertained more than any family in town, both local and out of town guests. He would be the largest subscriber to every ball at the Masonic Hall.¹

Col. Walter's family were eminently qualified to take their place in this generous hospitality.

Mrs. Walter, who before her marriage was Miss Fredonia [Brown], and her sons, Frank, Avant, Jimmie and Harvey, and her daughters, Misses Minnie (Mrs. H. C. Myers), Annie (Mrs. Fearn), Irene (Mrs. Oscar Johnson), Lillian and Pearl (Mrs. John Dye) were ideal hosts and hostesses.

Mrs. H. C. Myers, Col. Walter's oldest daughter, was the author of the charming book, *Romance and Realism of Southern Gulf Coast*, which "gives one of the most beautiful glimpses of life for down in Mississippi," as Miss Lucile Banks described it.²

HERO DURING EPIDEMIC

To mention the yellow fever epidemic of 1878 always calls to mind Col. Walter and his heroic sons, Frank, Avant and Jimmie, all of whom remained to look after the dead and dying as well as the helpless living, and made the supreme sacrifice.³

It is the custom in the Order of Knights of Pythias to name a lodge after someone who has done noble deeds for humanity, preferably where the supreme sacrifice has been made. So when No. 18 was organized here in 1879 it was given the name and still bears it of H. W. Walter Lodge, No. 18.

Col. Walter had been among those who believed the altitude of Holly Springs protected it,

¹ A famous story about Colonel Walter concerned his expulsion from the Presbyterian Church in 1844, for the sin of dancing. See *It Happened Here*, 16-18; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 88-91.

² Minnie Walter Myers moved with her husband to the Gulf Coast in 1885. Her little book was widely read and helped establish the area as a tourist destination. See *Mississippi Home-Places*, 96-97.

³ *It Happened Here*, 62-63.

and previous experience seemed to confirm this opinion. No quarantine had ever been raised against any infected district before and in the severe epidemic of 1873 refugees from Memphis swarmed in here and freely mingled with the citizens. A few of the refugees developed the fever and recovered from it—there were no deaths—and no citizens took it.

But the type of fever in 1878 seemed to be different and more virulent, and citizens soon developed cases. Col. Walter and his boys, as usual, did their duty.

As my family drove out of town on the morning of September 5, we drove slowly while my grandmother, Mrs. Jane Minor talked to Col. Walter, on his way to the Fort residence where the head of the family James Fort, father of Mrs. Fanny Daniel and the late Henry C. Fort, had died in the night.¹

Col. Walter was much depressed over the situation. "We are all going to die," he said, "but I and my sons will stay."² He turned into the Fort

¹ James Fort was a Holly Springs attorney. His wife was the former Martha Craft. Their daughter Fannie Fort was the great-grandmother of Chesley Thorne Smith, whose photos illustrate this book.

² Those who could afford it sent their wives and children to safe havens. The Rev. John N. Craig, pastor of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church sent his children to Danville, Kentucky with their neighbor Francis Breckinridge (Mrs. Addison) Craft, daughter of the late Dr. John C. Young, President of Centre College in that city. Mrs. Craft was hurrying to the bedside of her son John Young Craft, then eighteen years old and a member of the sophomore class at Centre. He had just returned to begin his junior year, but as Craig recorded, "was already poisoned before leaving Holly Springs, reached Danville, and went to bed to die, one of the most promising boys I ever knew." With their children in the relative safety of Danville, Dr. and Mrs. Craig determined to stay and perform their ministry. Craig wrote that: "I intended to remain in the epidemic (if it came) and do all I could. I had no idea that I would live through it. I thought I would be a bad subject, and that there was every probability that I would die somewhere in the epidemic, but I did not expect to be taken first. I preferred to stay and die, if need be—to die at my post. Of course, no other idea entered my head....and having a little worldly unsettled business, I arranged it, and wrote my will Friday from 11 to 1 o'clock. Contrary to all my expectations, I was among the *first* of the citizens taken; I had my chill within thirty minutes after I wrote my will. My life was despaired of, and preliminary arrangements were made for my early burial;

gate, and I never saw him again.³ I was never again to see W. J. L. Holland, who was sitting in

and yet I lived. Then I had two back-sets, and was very low again....Mrs. Craig remained with me. An elder of our Church [Lewis S. Scruggs, whose wife, Augusta Finley Scruggs, had died the previous year] helped her to nurse me, as best he could until the New Orleans nurses came, which was on my seventh day. This elder was taken sick. As he felt his chill coming on, he told Mrs. Craig he would go home. At his own house...he would have been 150 yards from any white person; everybody in that end of town having fled but us. Mrs. Craig looked him in the face and said, 'Sir, you must make me one promise, and that is, if you are to be sick, it is to be here in my house, where I can see that you are cared for.' She put a bed in the parlor and saw that he was attended to....Mrs. Craig stood in the midst of it all, nursing three cases in our own home, and helping others as best she could, and saw the hearse carry friend after friend by our house, until out of fifteen sick persons in our immediate neighborhood, only my elder and I were left, and there was no lady but Mrs. Craig in the south half of the town....Mrs. Craig, at last, had intermittent fever. As soon as we could, we both got into a hack and sleeping car (seven weeks after I was taken) and we came to Kentucky. I have improved vastly, and hope to start home in two or three days. Uncle sent me money to come to Virginia, but my crushed and broken-hearted people are gathering back home; into homes dismantled, desolated by the deaths of husbands, wives, sons, daughters three or four in a family, and I must go back to them. We lost [23] out of 127 communicants, also [13] out of the Sabbath school, among them the very flower of our youth." *The Southern Presbyterian* 13 (December 12, 1878): 3.

³ Many years later, Colonel Walter's daughter Anne—who became Mississippi's first woman to be a medical doctor—penned these memories of the yellow fever. She told how she had slipped out onto the front porch of the pillared Walter Place to listen to a heated debate between her father and some townspeople who had come to call. The yellow fever had made its way first to Grenada, then Water Valley, and finally Oxford, the university town thirty miles to the south. "My father, the ruling spirit of Holly Springs, had been away somewhere at court. He returned to find that in his absence his fellow citizens had established a shotgun quarantine. Grieved by this seeming heartlessness, and strong in his faith in the immunity of our hills, he had induced them to raise the quarantine and welcome refugees from the neighboring towns. Soon sporadic cases appeared in our midst, and then the courthouse bell tolled ominously; the epidemic was upon us. That was my last sight of him, standing there with his three grown sons behind him, telling his neighbors that as long as life lasted he and his sons would remain with them. The morning after the meeting on our front lawn my mother, with the three younger children took the last train that stopped. It was all very thrilling to a little girl who liked things to happen, whose mind was

front of relief headquarters (in the little brick office next to Dr. Henry's present office); nor Selden and Glenn Fant, standing a few steps away; nor Maj. Kinloch Falconer, standing in front of the meat shop.

Bob McClain, Bart Oliver, Frank Ganter, were dead, we were told, and Gus Smith was dying. They were lifting Maj. Brodie Crump out of an ambulance at the gate of his brother, Edward H. Crump, near Hudsonville, as we passed, and in a hack behind were Mr. and Mrs. William Crump.¹ I never saw the gentlemen again. It was a beautiful day overhead, but one of gloom to our spirits.

OLD WALTER HOUSE RESTORED

Happy days were again in store for the Walter house, however, when the late Oscar Johnson, who married Miss Irene Walter, bought the property and developed it and adjoining property he bought into a park that would have attracted attention in a large city.²

Mr. Johnson and his older brother, Jackson Johnson, both of whom had passed most of their previous lives near Red Banks, in Holly Springs and a few years of business life in Memphis, had gone to St. Louis and become giants in the busi-

stirred by adventure then and always, and who didn't realize the seriousness of that trip or the tragedy left behind. My father and older brothers stayed on, as my father had promised, tending the sick and burying the dead. Our house was turned into a hospital. Every household was in mourning, and in many cases whole families were blotted out. But it was not until the frost had fallen, the greatest danger past, and the end of the epidemic was in sight that my father and brothers fell ill with the fever. Then, within one week, all four were dead. My mother was left desolate. Of our homecoming I cannot speak. During that long, sad autumn I have fleeting memories of my mother wandering drearily from room to room in the big house which had been so easily filled by the presence of the large-hearted man who was gone. It was years before we heard her laugh again. Anne Walter Fearn, *My Days of Strength* (New York: Harper & Bros., 1939).

William Crump, born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, January 13, 1836, rests in Hill Crest Cemetery. Although his tombstone records his death, September 9, 1879, lists of yellow fever deaths place it at September 10, 1878. The stone was probably not made until later, and is not the only one to record an erroneous date.

² See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 342-43; *Southern Tapestry*, 119-20, 131.

ness world as leaders in the Roberts, Johnson & Rand Company.

I have loved Oscar Johnson for two things especially in connection with Johnson Park—his love for his old hometown that prompted him to develop it, and his preservation of antebellum houses acquired in the plan of the park.³

Neither the McGuirk, Polk or Featherston houses were pretty, but Mr. Johnson enlisted the services of a noted architect of St. Louis, Mr. Link, who had designed the state capitol of Mississippi,⁴ and when he had finished them they were things of beauty. Yet the best of the old had been preserved and any old timer returning after years of absence could easily recognize them.

Mrs. W. A. Anderson now owns and lives at the McGuirk house, George Buchanan at the Featherston and Jim Tucker at the Polk house.⁵

Perhaps a moral might be drawn in human life as well as architecture—to preserve and reconstruct the best, rather than destroy the whole.

Little change was made on the exterior of the Walter house, chiefly in substituting a colonial balcony for the iron grilled one, which extended almost across the front. In Mr. Johnson's lifetime the Polk and Featherston houses were used to take care of the overflow for the house parties.⁶

The Gatley Place on West College Avenue was remodeled and Mr. Kiern, an expert landscape artist of St. Louis, lived there several years while in the employ of Mr. Johnson. Several other houses were removed to give more room, among them the old Episcopal rectory known

³ See photos, Miller-Smith 30, 98; *Southern Tapestry*, 119.

⁴ Theodore C. Link, of St. Louis, designed the building still referred to as the "new" capitol, erected in 1903, as well as "St. Albans," the Johnson estate a few miles west of St. Louis.

⁵ The Polk Place (1849), later called "Tuckahoe," stands at 180 South Craft Street. Featherston Place, is located next door at 166 South Craft St. See *It Happened Here*, 19; *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 158; *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 89.

⁶ See *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 158; *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 89, 90; *Architecture of the Old South*, 141.

later as the Delay Place, and the first Methodist church known as the Abe Norfleet house.¹

MUCH MONEY EXPENDED

Mr. Johnson spent large sums of money in creating the park. Much of the land was sand hills and hollows, upon which multiplied tons of fertilizer were spread, and continuous sprinklers from the water works kept up for weeks to get the grass started.

Mr. Kiern landscaped this large tract of land and men and teams were busy for months. Hundreds of trees, shrubs and flowers, some of them quite costly, were set out, and the whole developed into a gem of landscape art.

Emmet Henderson, colored, then and now a resident here, deserves mention as Mr. Link's able assistant in maintaining the beauty of the park.

Mrs. Johnson decided after her husband's death in 1916 not to keep the park, and the late M. A. Greene² bought it and subdivided much of it into lots.³ Ed Booker and Lytle Rather have built beautiful homes on lots facing Chulahoma and there is a snug little neighborhood of bungalows nestling within the park itself, with entrance from West Van Dorn Avenue. The memorial arch between the Tucker and Buchanan homes at the foot of Gholson Avenue remains.⁴

Mrs. M. A. Greene has reserved for her home the Walter house and the original land with it, and it is still one of the show places of the town.⁵

¹ This house was located on the Hernando Road (now West College Avenue), near the corner of Craft Street.

² Mr. Greene was the first automobile dealer in Holly Springs. *Southern Tapestry*, 109.

³ This is the area beginning where Van Dorn Avenue crosses Craft Street and extending to the west, which to-day is known as the Johnson Park subdivision.

⁴ A bronze plate on the elaborate brick and wrought iron gates to the east driveway that once led into Johnson Park, explains that the gate is a memorial to Oscar Johnson, who died in 1916, before the ambitious project could be completed.

⁵ "Monument to Old South Still Stands at Holly Springs, Miss.," *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (March 5, 1933).

I hope I may be excused for introducing a little incident of the Walter and Mickle families.

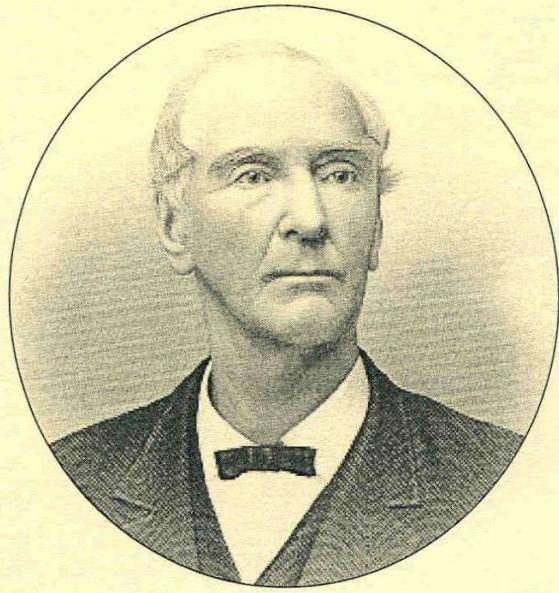
Annie Walter and her husband, Dr. Fearn,⁶ both physicians, became medical missionaries of the Methodist Church, South, and were sent to China; later going to Shanghai and opening a sanitarium of their own.⁷

Minor Mickle was in China with the Standard Oil Co., with headquarters in Hong Kong. My sister Rebecca was an army nurse at Manila. Rebecca was going home for a visit and had to change steamers at Hong Kong, and spent the interim with Minor. He had to go up coast on business and they took the steamer together, and who should they find aboard but Annie Walter Fearn.

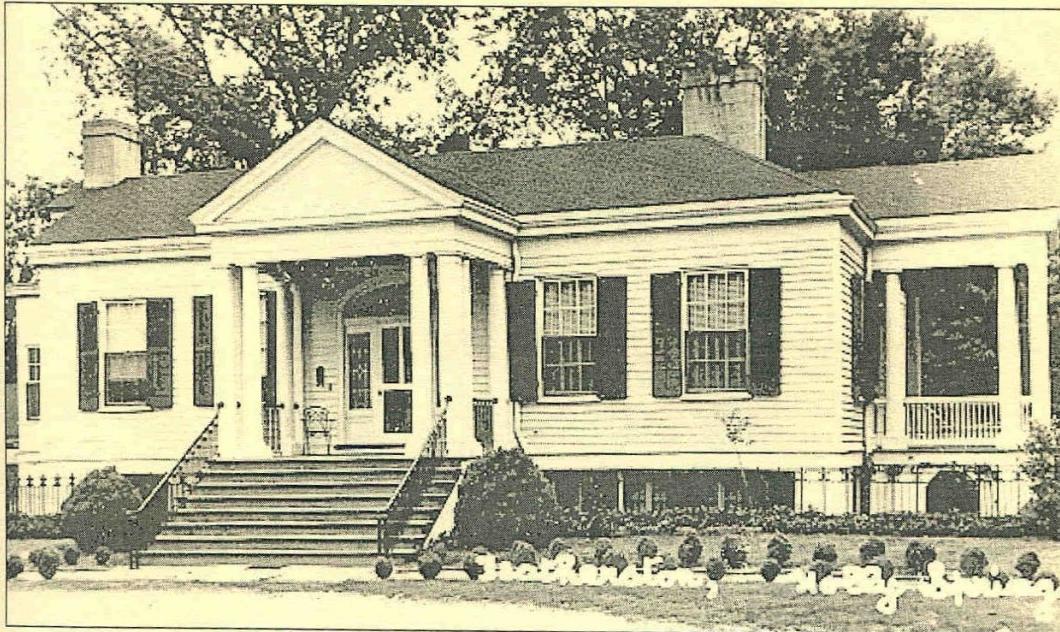
They were reared within a stone's throw of each other, and had not seen each other for years, and well, there was some conversation.

⁶ Anne Walter met Dr. John Burrus Fearn, a native of Jackson and Yazoo City, Mississippi, in China. They were married there in 1896.

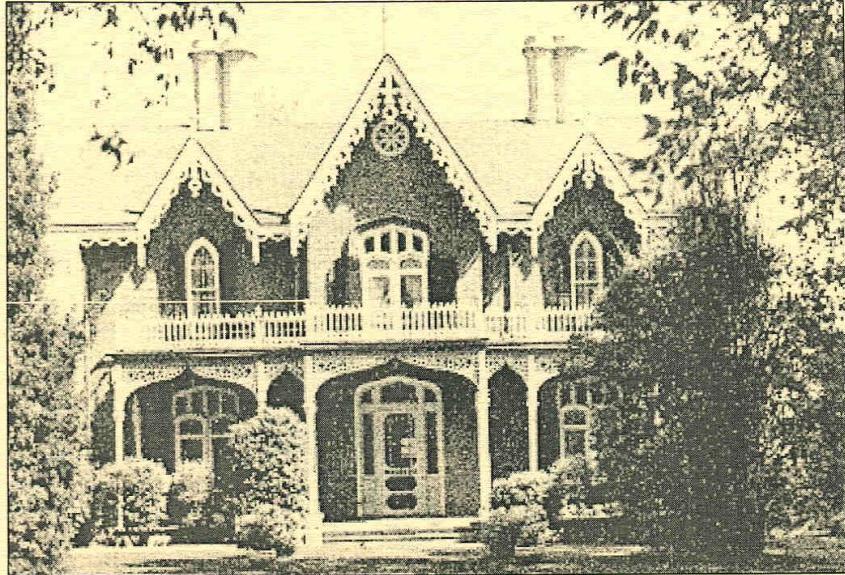
⁷ Dr. Fearn was reared in the Presbyterian Sunday school, along with her brothers and sisters. Anxious for adventure, and without prospects for employment as a physician at home, she seized an opportunity to go to China for a classmate at the University of Pennsylvania's medical college who was not able to fulfill a one-year appointment as a medical missionary under the board of the Methodist Church. After the term was completed, Fearn remained in China as a private physician, serving forty years. She is remembered chiefly for the sanitarium she personally built and by herself directed in Shanghai from 1919, until forced by military conditions to return home in 1932. As one who rejected traditional religious structures, Fearn emphasized throughout her life that she had gone to the Orient as a physician, not a missionary. She persuaded her sister Irene to re-purchase the old Walter Place in 1935, and she moved to Holly Springs where she prepared her memoirs, *My Days of Strength: An American Woman Doctor's Forty Years in China*, which were published in 1939 and hailed as a benchmark for the growing movement for the equality of women's roles in society. She died April 29, 1939, three weeks after the publication of her book. See *Mississippi Home-Places*, 97, *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 397-403.



Mr. Mickle wrote that Gen. W. S. Featherston, elected to Congress before the Civil War, "suffered a heavy loss in the yellow fever of 1878, his wife and daughter and son, Miss Georgia and Winfield, being taken. The community suffered with him in the death of such splendid members of the society. Photo from Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi."



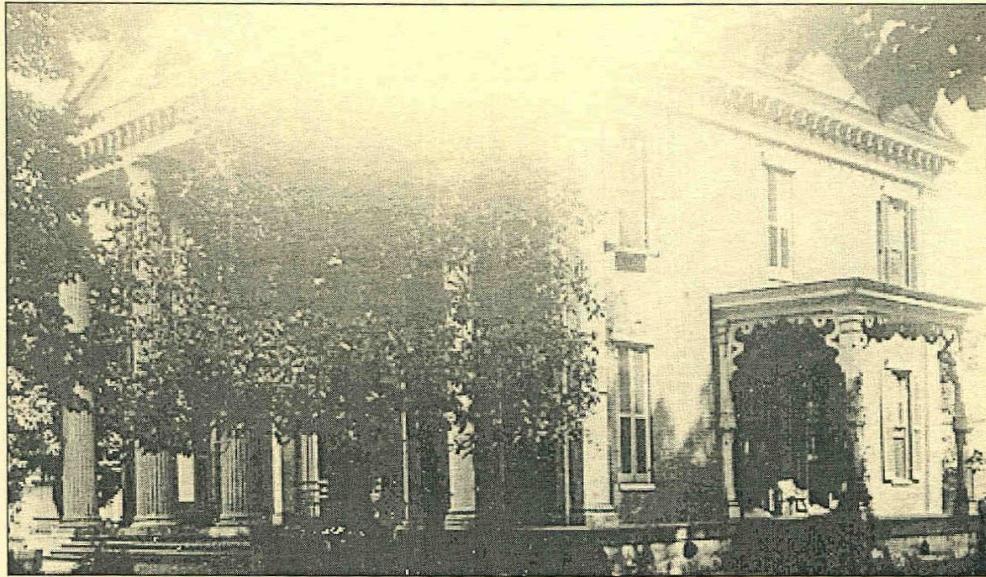
The McEwen-Featherston Place was one of the houses remodeled by Oscar Johnson Sr., in his Johnson Park project. Mr. Mickle recorded that "In Mr. Johnson's lifetime the Polk and Featherston houses were used to take care of the overflow for the house parties." Photo from the Chesley Smith collection.



Mr. Mickle wrote that, "Bonner House, like all of the old houses on Salem Avenue, had quite an estate for town houses, in this case thirty or more acres, and as with the others much of it has been sold off to meet the demands of the growth of the city." Photo from Scenic South Magazine.

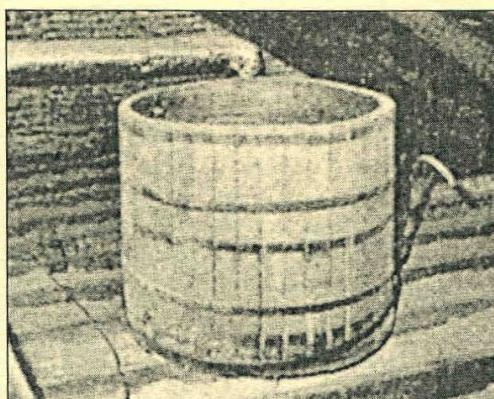


Kate "Sherwood" Bonner, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Bonner, whom Mr. Mickle called Holly Springs' "noted authoress." He wrote that, "possessing a most gracious manner, a queenly figure with a mass of golden hair, brilliant in conversation, she was an ideal hostess for such a home. She gave Bonner House its greatest glory." She died of cancer in 1883 at the age of 34. Chesley Smith collection.

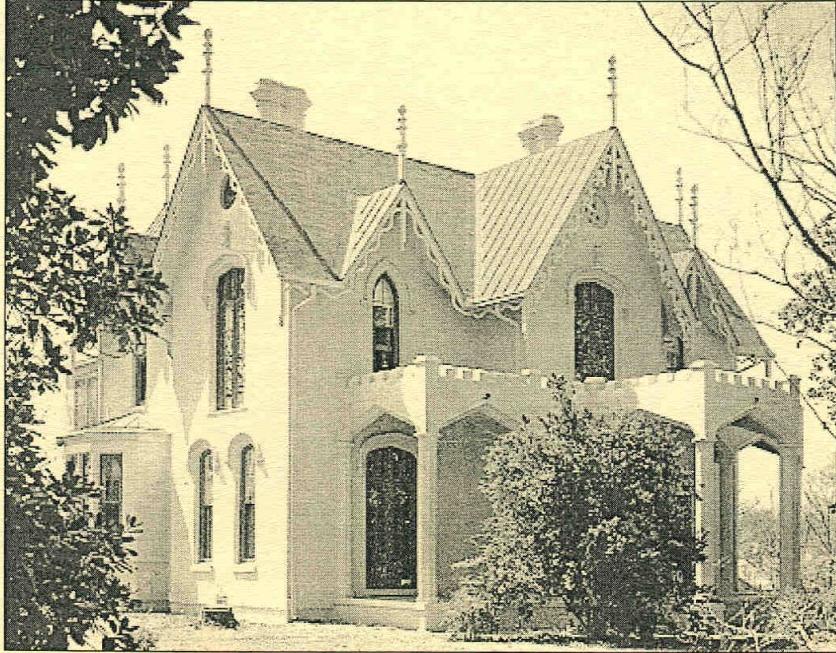


app-West-Fant Place. Mr. Mickle noted that, "The building of the Old Clapp house in the mid-fifties marked the peak of antebellum prosperity. Judge Clapp's family was popular in society and the parlors and halls witnessed many social gatherings. Judge Clapp moved to Memphis shortly after the war and his son Lucas Clapp, became the first mayor of Holly Springs contributed to Memphis." This old photo shows the house with its original east porch.

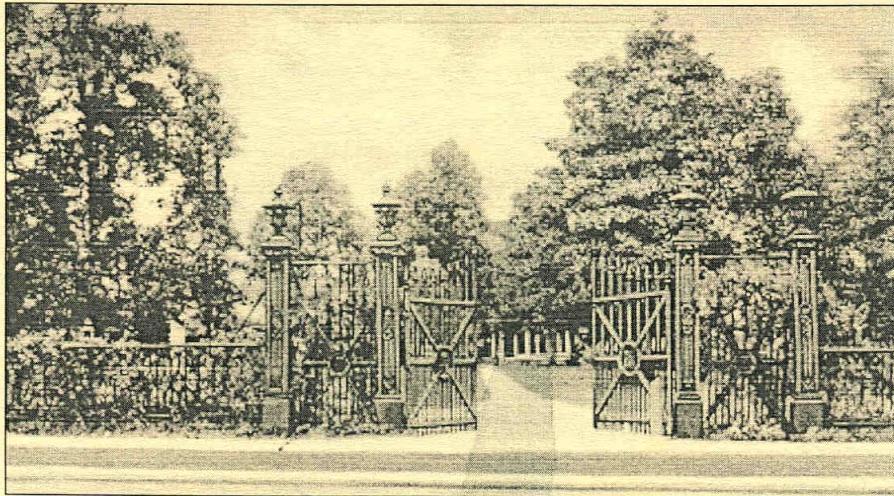
Photo from the Hubert McAlexander collection.



Vats in the attic of "Grey Gables" provide water for the town's first indoor bathtub, installed by James J. House, who bought the house from Mrs. James Henry Nelson. Mr. Mickle recorded that, "Water for bath and fountain was pumped by hand from a cistern." Photo from The South Reporter.



The Coxe-Dean Place.. Mr. Mickle's article on the home, built in 1858 by Will Henry Coxe, as his town house, states that, "So far as conveniences went, the house was well-provided for that time. It was piped for gas throughout, and the chandeliers were artistic in hammered iron. The bathroom with running water was so far as known the first installed in Holly Springs. Water for it was pumped by hand. A system of call bells from all rooms was also arranged, with old-fashioned bell cords." Photo from Scenic South Magazine.

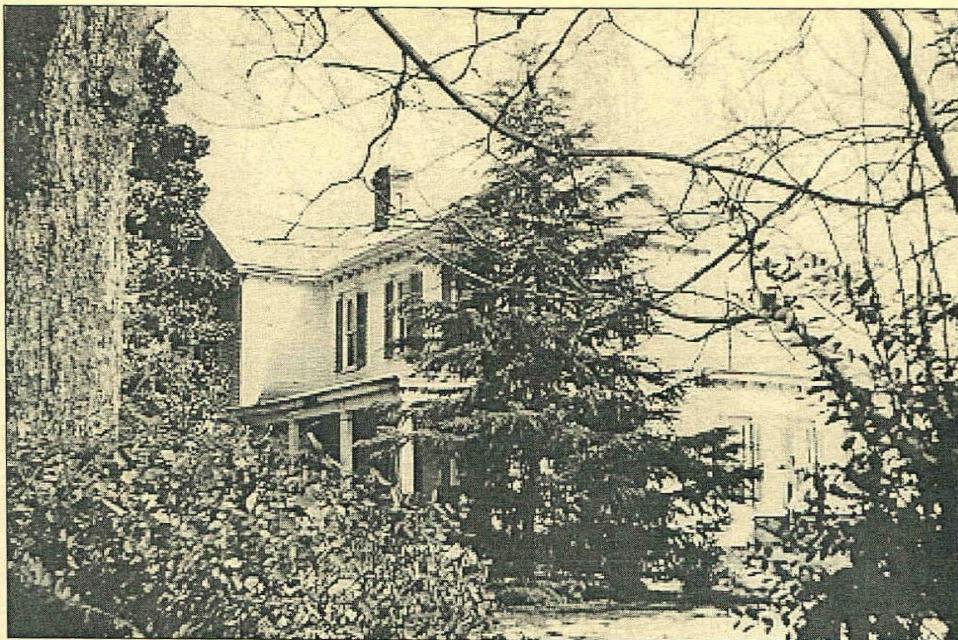


The wrought iron fence and gates at the Coxe-Dean Place are identical to those at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. The gates were manufactured at the firm of Wood & Parrot, of Boston, Massachusetts. Postcard view from the 1930s. Mr. Mickle recounted a story, oft-told about the fence that, "The panels of the fence carried spear heads which were broken off during the War of the Sixties. Someone from Holly Springs while in Ohio a few years ago met an elderly man who said that he and another young Federal soldier in a spirit of boyish wantonness had knocked them off, and he was sorry to have marred the beauty of the fence.." Chesley Smith collection.



The house at Galena Plantation. Mr. Mickle wrote that "Will Henry Coxe was a member of a family who came from [Oglethorpe County, Georgia] and settled near Chulahoma; there were several brothers and all large planters. Mr. Coxe lived at "Galena" plantation, now the home and owned by his granddaughter, Miss W. H. Lacey."

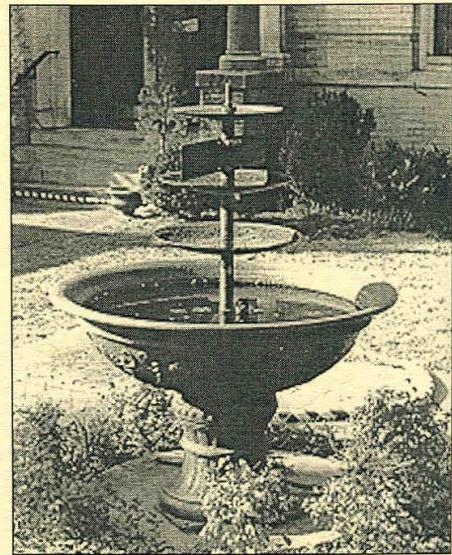
The house, now demolished, stood abandoned for many years. Photo by Chesley Smith.



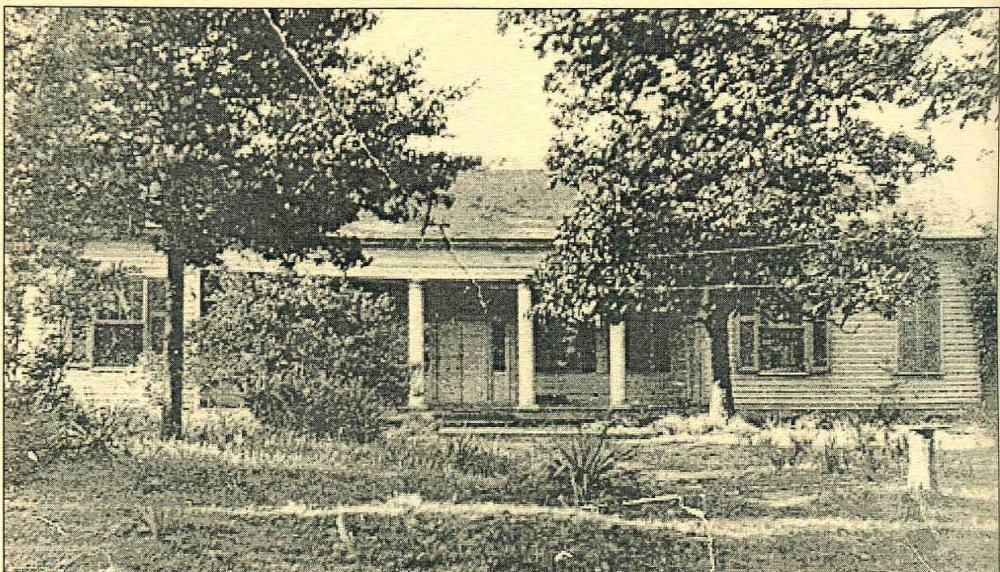
Mr. Mickle wrote that, "For many years Maj. Craft was the unofficial host of the city and many notable men and women were entertained there." Mr. Mickle noted that, "It has been throughout a home of culture and refinement, a social center for those ideals that make for a better city." Chesley Smith collection.



Miss Nina Craft (left) shows a visitor some of the lovely antiques Mr. Mickle described in her dining room at "The Pines." Chesley Smith collection.



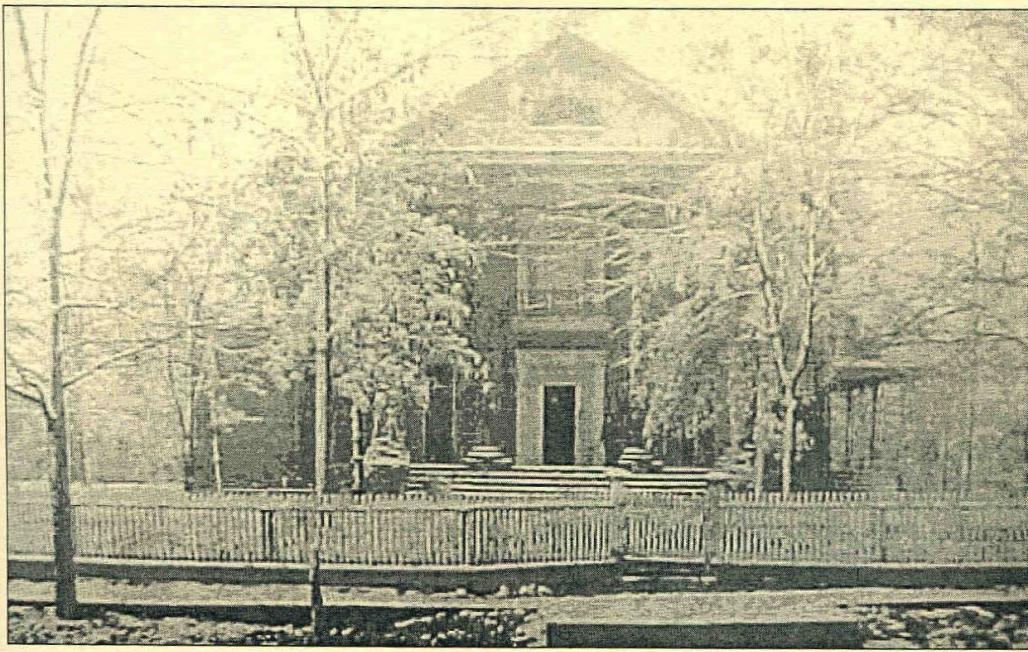
The old fountain, from whose basin the horses drank, which stood at the corner of Chulahoma and Craft, near "The Pines. It is preserved on the front lawn of the Marshall County Historical Museum.



The Arthur-McDowell Place, which stood on Salem between the houses known to-day as "Airliewood" and "Montrose" was, according to Mr. Mickle, "the only home in Holly Springs provided with a ballroom, so far as I know." He wrote that, "The ballroom was torn down about 1865, but had been the scene of many gay parties before the War of the Sixties." Hubert McAlester collection.



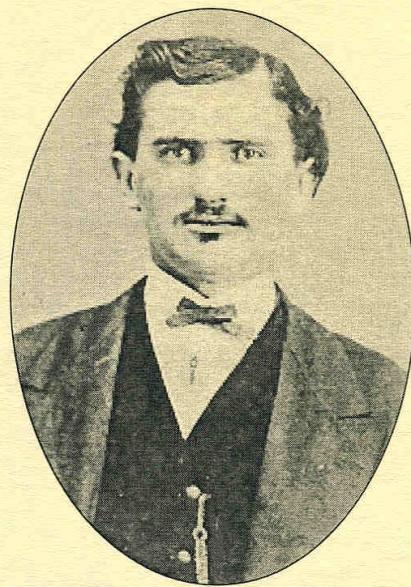
Gen. James R. Chalmers,
Photo from Mississippi: Heart of the South.



The McGowan-Crawford Place, now known as "Montrose," before the Johnson additions, shown after a snow.
The small room on the left (now removed) took the form of a bisected octagon. Photo courtesy of Jack Durham.



Sidney Seale Crawford's birthday party was held at the Mc-Gowan-Crawford Place in 1909.
A large assembly of local children were on hand for the celebration. Photo courtesy of Jack Durham.



Dr. Zealey Ross, a Holly Springs dentist, whom Mr. Mickle remembered
drove in his bachelor days "a fine buggy and pair of beautiful iron gray horses."
Ross lived in the house known today as "Belvedere at the southeast corner of Salem and Randolph Streets.
Photo from the Walthall-Freeman scrapbook,
Marshall County Historical Museum.



Judge James F. Trotter.
Mr. Mickle numbered Judge Trotter among the legal giants of Holly Springs.
Photo courtesy of Frank Hopkins and David Person.

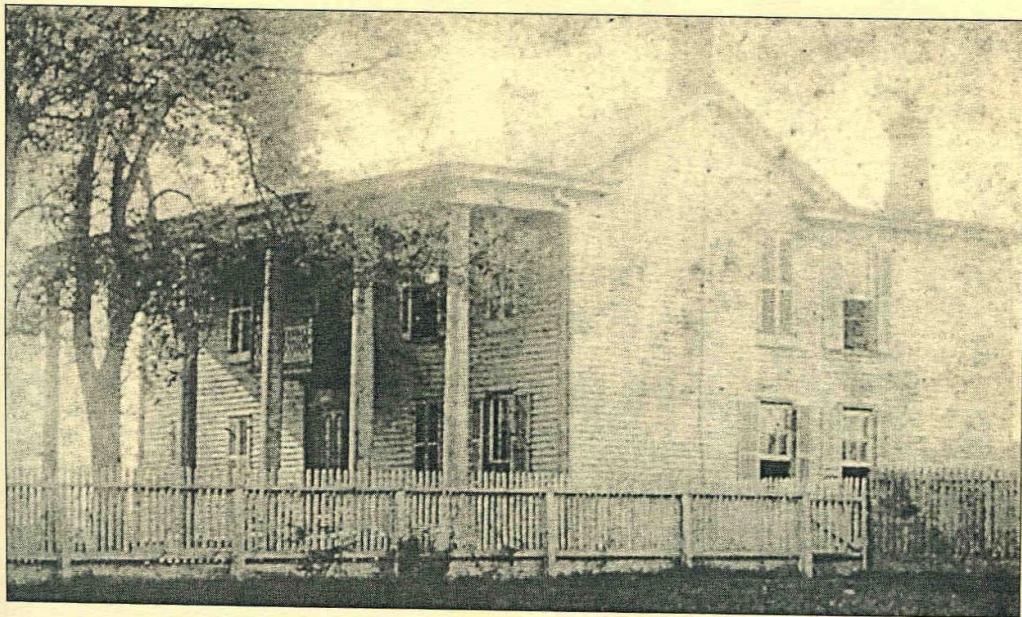
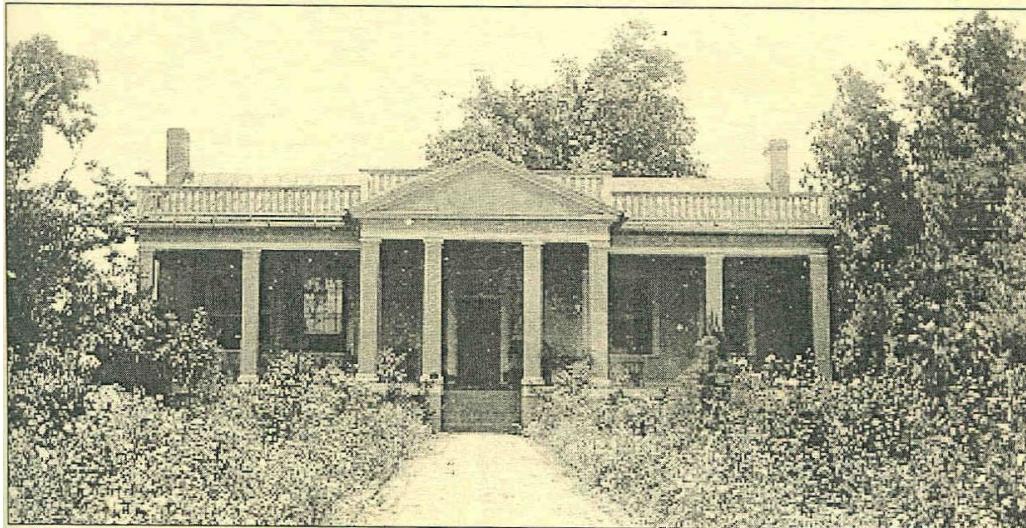


Photo of the Judge Trotter house. Courtesy of Frank Hopkins and David Person.



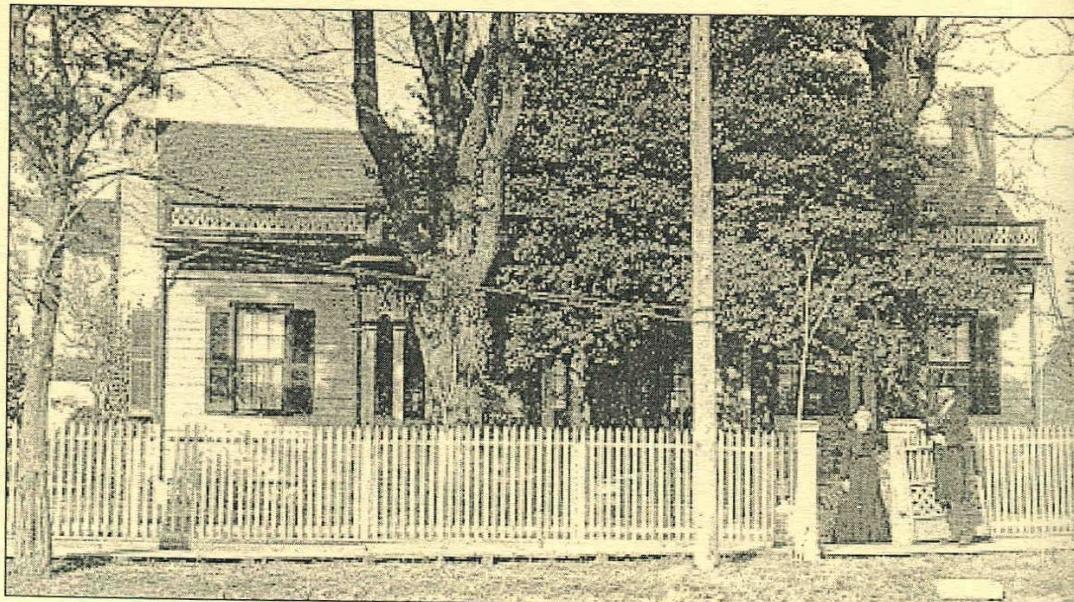
"Grey Gables," the Nelson-House-McGowan Place of Mr. Mickle's day. He wrote that, "The old Nelson home, which Mr. House remodeled and changed the front to College Avenue, fronted west on a street that ran over to Salem Avenue, but which has been absorbed by property owners." Photo from *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*.



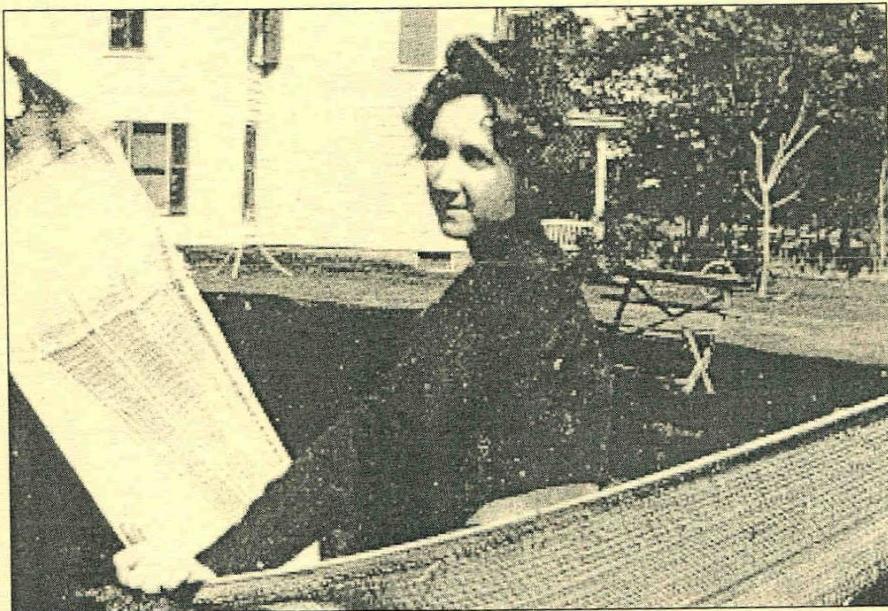
The McCorkle-Crump Place. This was the boyhood home of Memphis mayor and congressman Edward Hull Crump. Lem Johnson photo. Chesley Smith collection.



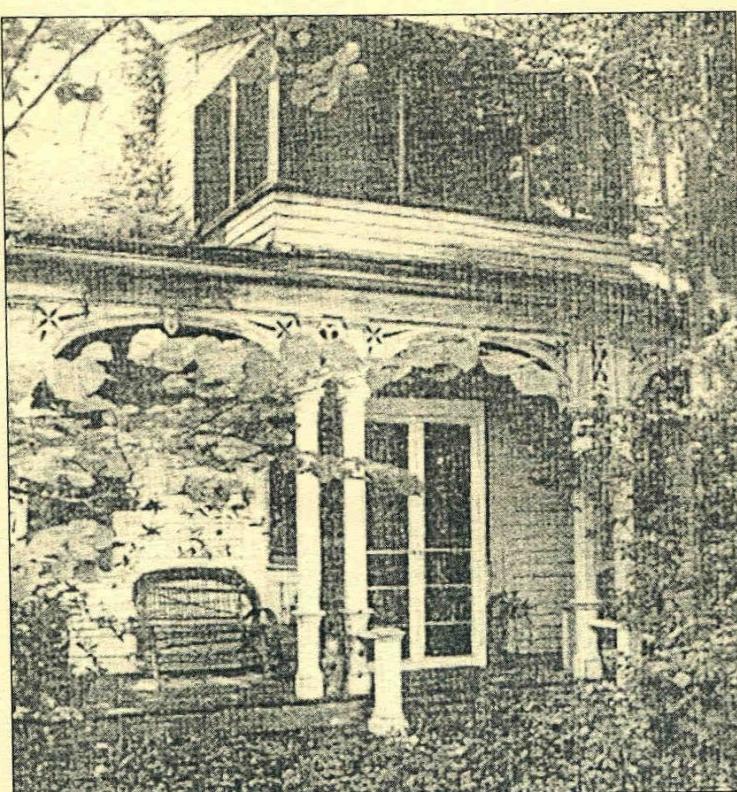
Mrs. Kate Walthall Freeman, as painted by her granddaughter Kate Freeman Clark.
Mr. Mickle wrote that she made her home "a musical and literary center in Holly
Springs' golden past." Painting reproduced with permission of the trustees of the
Kate Freeman Clark Memorial Art Gallery in Holly Springs.



The Walthall-Freeman Place at the northeast corner of College and Walthall Streets.
Photo courtesy of the Marshall County Historical Society.



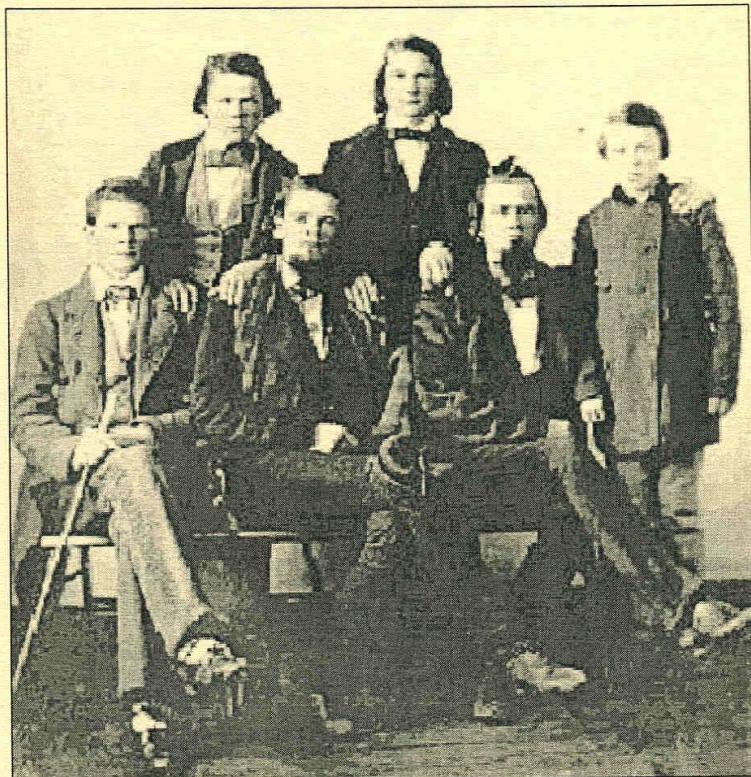
Artist Kate Freeman Clark in the 1890s. Mr. Mickle recognized her as "an internationally known artist." Photo courtesy of the Marshall County Historical Society.



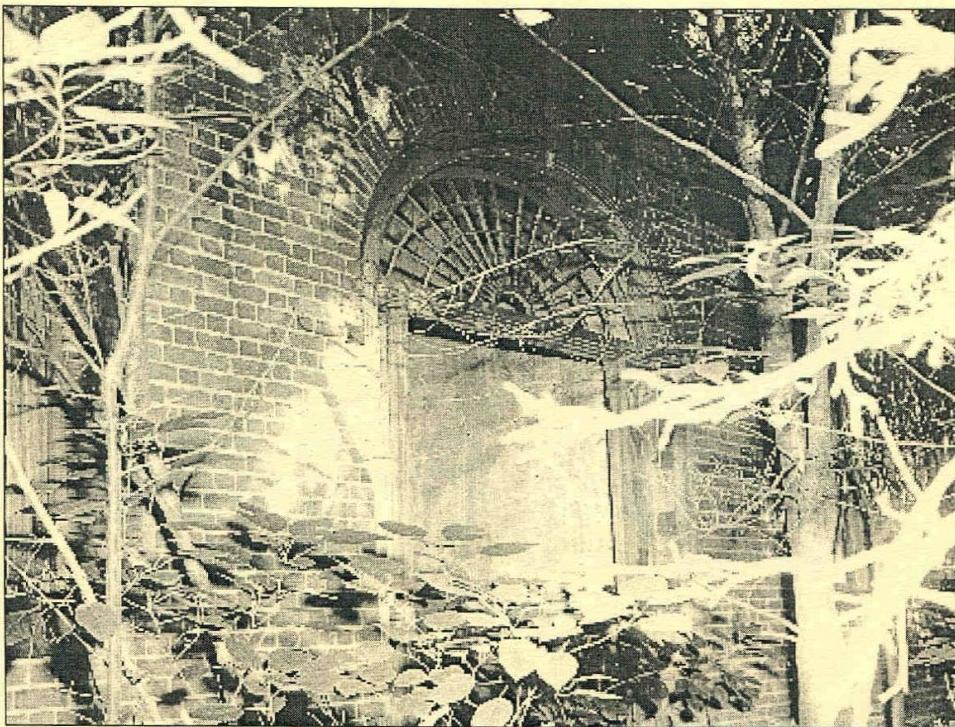
Art studio (at roof level) added by Miss Kate Clark to the old Freeman house when she returned to Holly Springs after pursuing her career in New York.
Photo from The Memphis Press-Scimitar.



Volney Peel.
Miniature courtesy of Ellen Wilds.



A group of Peel men, c. 1860, believed to be (front row left to right) Albert Peel, Thomas Jefferson Peel, Robert Hunter Peel, and William Hunter Peel (back row left to right) Volney Peel and Addison Peel.
Photo from Kevin Hudson, courtesy of Ellen Wilds.



Ruins of the Peel Place, which Mr. Mickle described as "a splendid undertaking." He wrote that the Peels "kept open house the year around in the old days, [and] Christmas trees and Christmas festivities were especially observed."

Photo by Chesley Smith.



Stones from the foundations at the old Lumpkin Place were used to build the lodge at Spring Lake (now Wall Doxey State Park). Chesley Smith collection.



Mrs. W. A. Anderson's home, the older portion of which was Dr. Daniel Baker's log cottage.
Photo by R. Milton Winter.



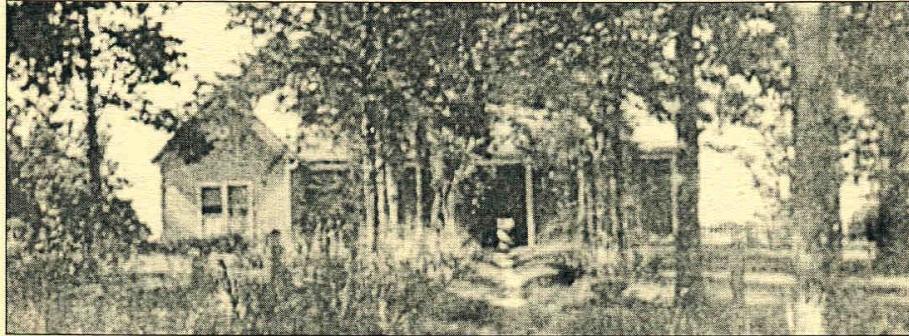
The Rev. Dr. Daniel Baker, early Holly Springs minister.
Photo from the collection of The First Presbyterian Church.



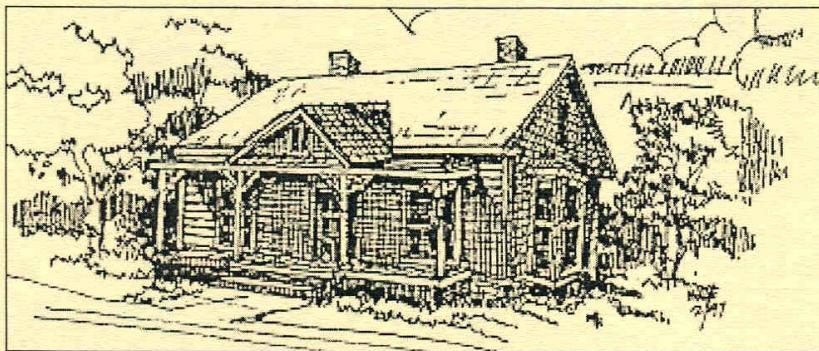
Mrs. W. A. Anderson's home, the older portion of which was Dr. Daniel Baker's log cottage.
Photo by R. Milton Winter.



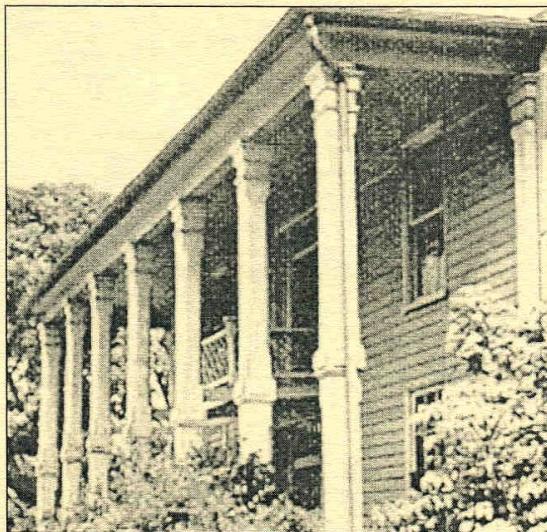
The Rev. Dr. Daniel Baker, early Holly Springs minister.
Photo from the collection of The First Presbyterian Church.



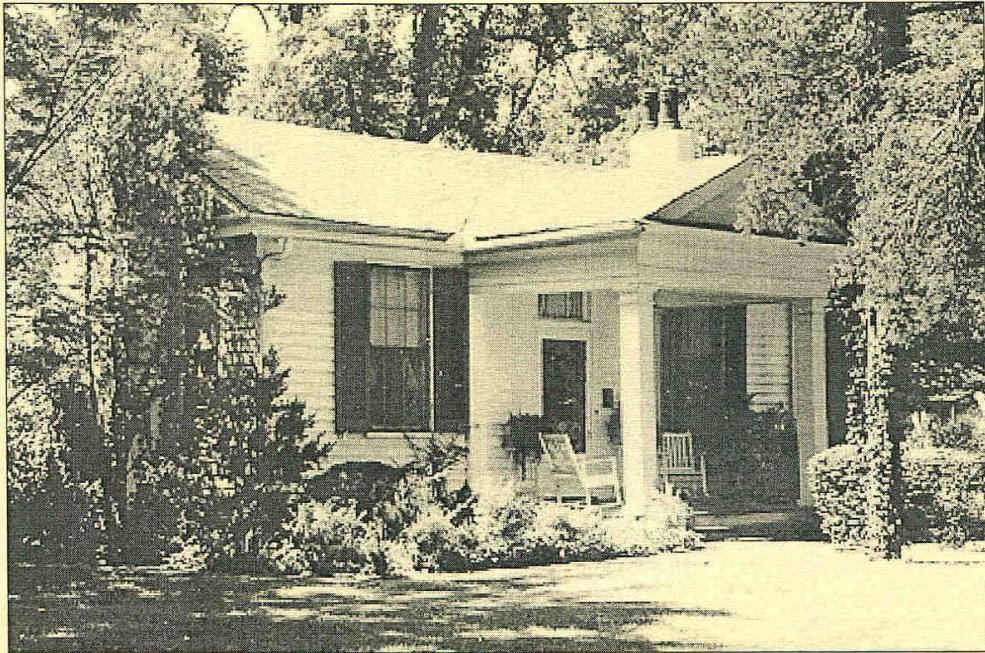
Marbury-Dean Place on West Chulahoma, now called "Cuffawa."
Lem Johnson photograph. Chesley Smith collection.



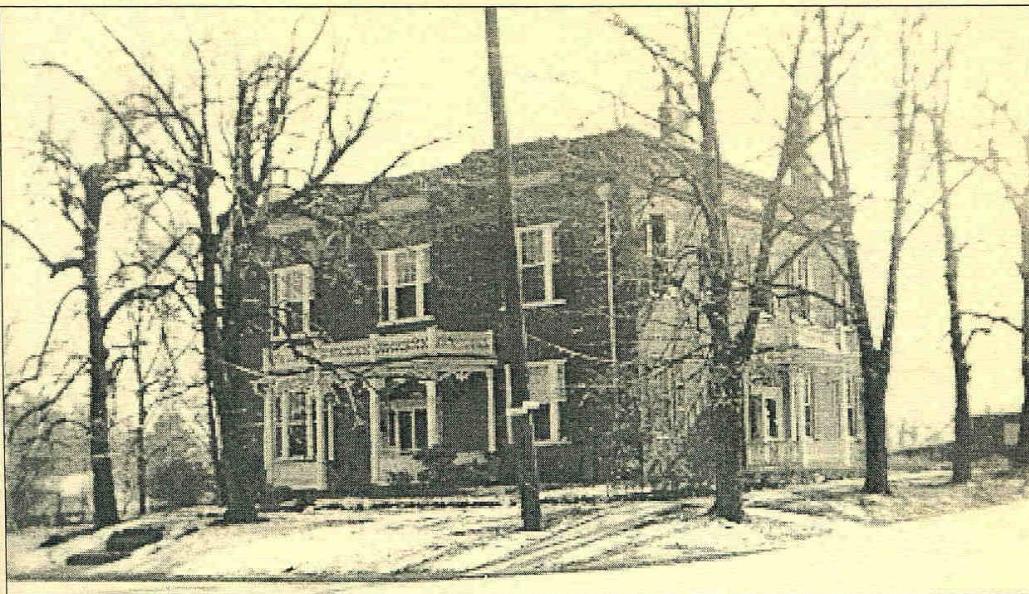
Old Presbyterian Manse which stood at the corner of Craft and Chulahoma.
Pen and ink sketch by William M. Wage.



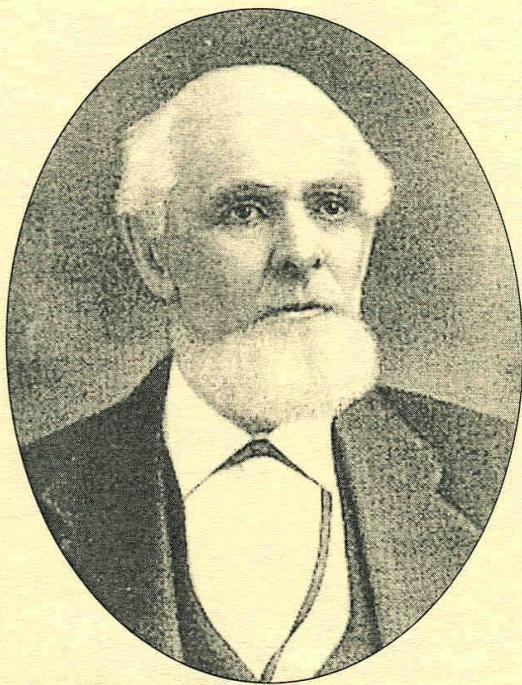
Old Hull Place which became the MSC Annex. Of this building, Mr. Mickle wrote, "The mention of 'The Corner,' will call up to nearly every old beau of the town, or in other places where they have cast their lot, memories that they will long linger over; and there will be an involuntary adjustment of collars and ties as if about to enter its hospitable doors."
Photo from the First Presbyterian Church collection.



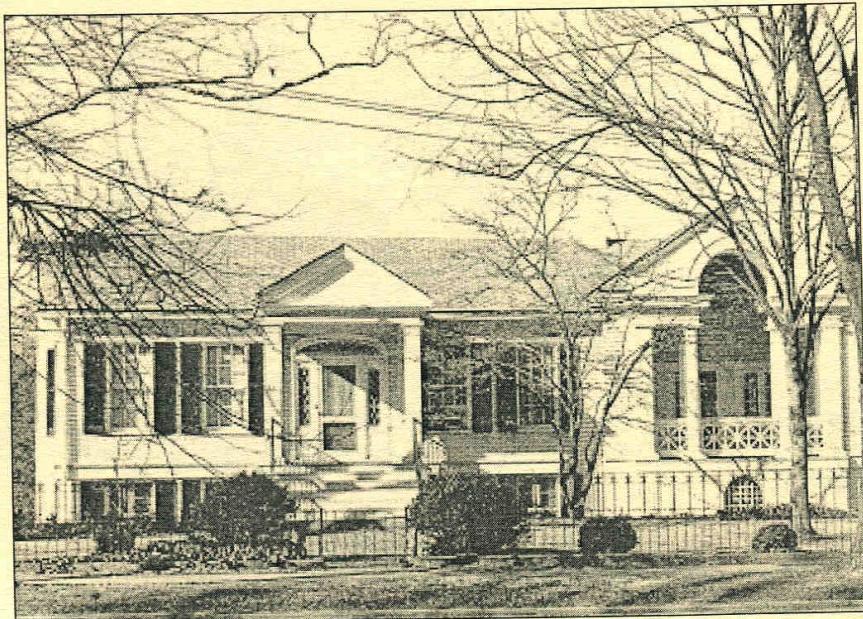
The McCarroll Place on Church Street, now East Van Dorn Avenue.
Ruth Francisco Bitzer collection.



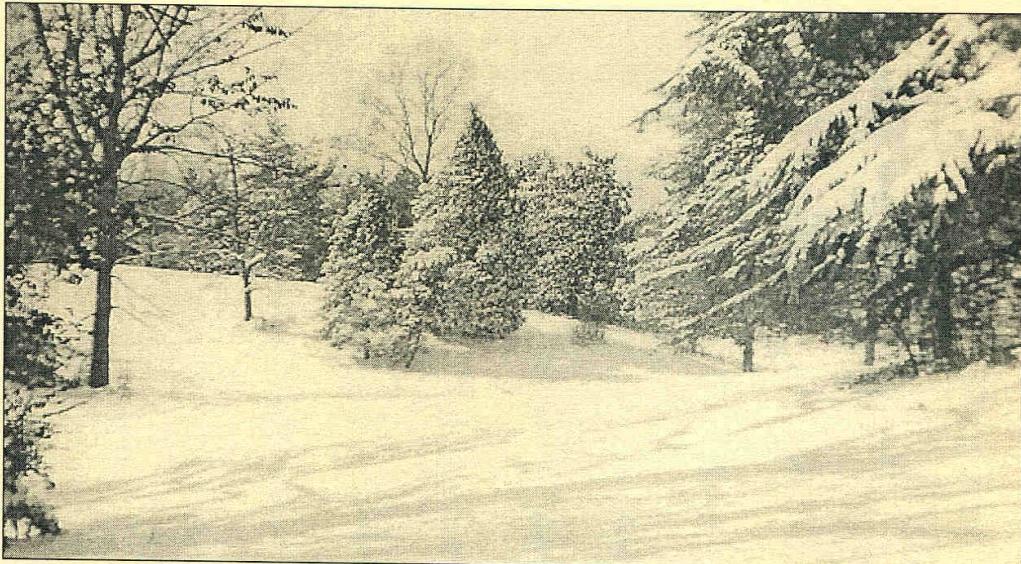
Snow scene at the Shumake-Smith-Williamson-Shumacker Place, now called "Linden Terrace." Note the Victorian front and side porches, a later modification of the New England Federal design. Mr. Mickle wrote that, "A long wooden bench stood outside of the sidewalk under the trees, which the boys called "The Roost," and here gathered such choice spirits in their youth as Brodie Hull, Billie Smith, Jim and Ed Watson, Yates and Russell Freeman, Tom Nelson, Lee and Alex Chism and Mason Dancy, along College Street, and doubtless Jim Greer, Will Strickland and John McCarroll, just over on "Depot" Street. They were a jolly bunch." Photo from the Chesley Smith collection.



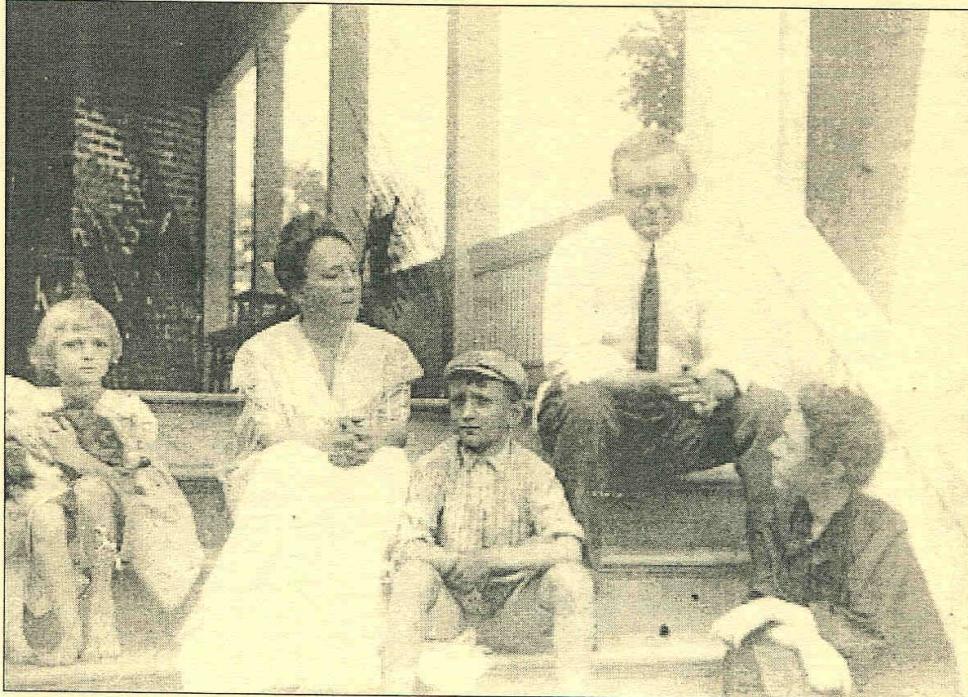
Col. Harvey Washington Walter.
Photo from the National Cyclopedie of American Biography.



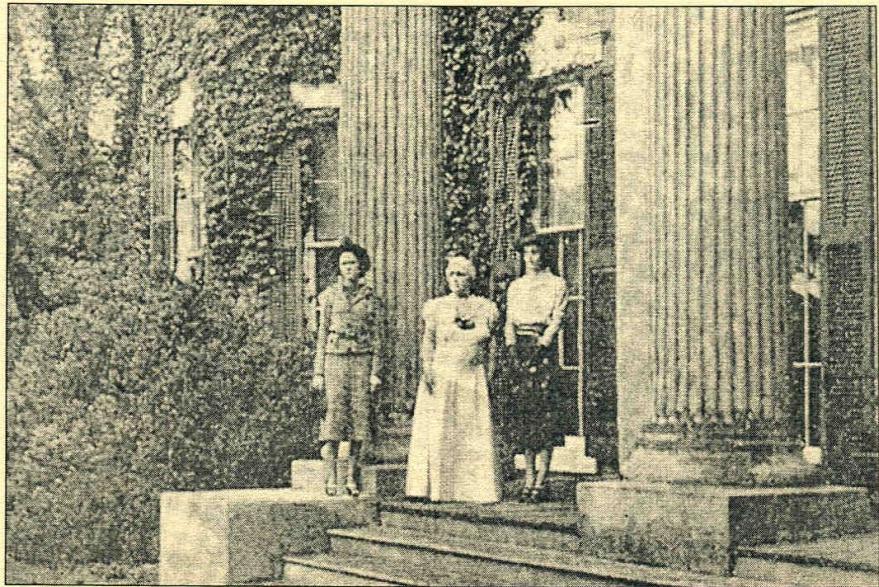
The Polk Place, remodeled by Theodore Link as part of the Johnson Park project.
Photo from Mary Wallace Crocker, Historic Architecture in Mississippi.



Snow scene in Johnson Park. Mr. Mickle wrote that the landscaping of the extensive grounds behind Walter Place resulted in "one of the prettiest parks in Mississippi." Chesley Smith collection.



Oscar Johnson at Walter Place with his daughter Fredonia (hugging her dog "Nellie") and Harvey Johnson.
Also pictured are Oscar Johnson's sisters-in-law Lillian Walter (left) and Pearl Walter (right).
Chesley Smith collection.



Mrs Oscar Johnson (center) greets visitors to Walter Place at the Holly Springs Pilgrimage in 1938.
Photo from *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*.



Mrs. Irene Johnson, the oldest daughter of Col. Harvey Walter, stands by the mantel at Walter Place, over which a portrait of her father hangs. Her sisters Mrs. Pearl Walter Dye and Miss Lillian Walter sit before the fireplace. The sisters had returned for the Marshall County Centennial in 1936.
Photo from *The Memphis Press-Scimitar*.

Chapter X. Churches and Cemeteries.

1.

HISTORY OF THE FIVE CHURCHES OF HOLLY SPRINGS DATES BACK TO 1836.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (November 27, 1930).¹ The early local history of the five churches represented here by congregations—Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic—is difficult to obtain, due to lack of records² and the passing to their reward of most of the early fathers who had knowledge or tradition.³

This much is certain that the Church was early on the grounds, before Holly Springs was founded in 1836,⁴ and probably all of those mentioned were represented by pioneer missionaries.⁵

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² Complete congregational records—unusual for such a span of years—are preserved by the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church, and an almost-complete set exists for Christ Episcopal Church. The Presbyterian records are housed in vault of the Merchant's & Farmer's Bank, those of Christ Church, in the Bank of Holly Springs.

³ Photographs of the Holly Springs churches may be found in Bob V. Moulder and Carl McLntire, *Shrines to Tomorrow: A Photographic Study of One Hundred Historic Mississippi Churches* (privately published, 1971): 11, 14, 70, 73, 76.

⁴ The first representatives of the Church to enter what is now Marshall County, other than priests in the exploration party of the Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto (if indeed it passed this way), were missionaries of the Presbyterian Church, who established a school for children of the Chickasaw nation, six miles west of Holly Springs in 1825. This school, named Martyn Mission (after the famous missionary Henry Martyn), flourished for eight years until the government determined to remove the Indians to Oklahoma—a move the missionaries vigorously protested. The school was closed in 1833, but several members of the mission remained in the area and were later received into the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 27-35.

⁵ One such missionary—perhaps the earliest to visit Holly Springs wrote of his work here in *The Mil-*

Some of the churches hold no recorded deeds to their property or some of it, due, doubtless to gift of the land, but without a record deed. Undisputed possession gives title to their deeds.⁶

The first Baptist Church, a frame building, was built on Hamilton-Gholson Avenue,⁷ near the cemetery.⁸

ennial Harbinger, a religious magazine published by Alexander Campbell in Bethany, Virginia, May 10, 1836. The missionary, James N. Brown, a Campbellite preacher states: "I attended a call of some of the brethren at Holly Springs, now the county seat of Marshall County, where a church was constituted of upwards of twenty members, who there and then agreed to meet every Lord's day for reading of the word, prayer, praise, breaking the loaf, etc. I have since learned they continue steadfast. I think it highly probable that this is the first church constituted in the bound of the [Chickasaw] purchase." This is no doubt the Reformed Baptist congregation to which Mr. Mickle refers later in this article. Brown goes on to say in his letter that, "As usual, great exertions are made by the different sects to gain a foothold, and almost the first effort is to warn the people against the hideous monster, CAMP-BELLISM." Bobby Mitchell, Holly Springs *South Reporter* (April 24, 1986).

⁶ Many early churches in Mississippi—especially in rural locations—possess no deeds for their original sites—the rights to the property being granted informally, usually by the owners of the adjacent property. Deeds were executed for the various lots occupied by the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church, and these provide a most interesting commentary upon its history.

⁷ To-day's Market Street.

⁸ Mr. Mickle makes a natural mistake here. The Christian Church (also called the Reformed Baptist or 'Campbellite' Baptist Church, which eventuated no doubt from the missionary visit earlier cited. This congregation (which passed out of existence in the nineteenth century) and the Baptist Church had lots near each other on South Market Street. The deed cited is for the Reformed Baptist or Campbellite Church—ancestor of to-day's Church of Christ. The Baptist

It was used until 1898,¹ when the second church was built of brick, on the site of the Standard Oil Filling station on Van Dorn Avenue.²

Tradition says lot and church were the gift of Robert Greer, grandfather of the late Mrs. M. F. Dunlap. The recorded deed is from the board of police to the First Reformed Baptist Church.

The first pastor was the Rev. Frazier,³ and the trustees were: William D. Roberts, Maj. William M. Strickland, Ben Fant (father of Miss Helen Fant), Aaron Woodruff,⁴ and a Mr. Holcomb.

congregation (established in 1837 or 1838) did not secure its lot on Market Street until 1855.

¹ Besancon's *Annual Register for the State of Mississippi* (1838) states that "among the public edifices of Holly Springs were four churches: a Methodist, a Presbyterian, a Baptist, and a Campbellite Baptist." The pioneer era First Baptist Church, evidently on a lot given by James Greer and erected at his own expense, served until 1855, when the congregation erected another clapboard structure on South Market Street at the foot of West Chulahoma Avenue, and this, in turn, was replaced by the Gothic Church, of brick, that served from 1898 to 1924. See the article on the congregation's early history by Hubert McAlexander, in *A History of the First Baptist Church of Holly Springs, Mississippi, 1837-1987* (Holly Springs: Holly Springs Printing Co., 1987): 4, 6.

² This building, used until 1924, fronted on Van Dorn Avenue (then called Church or Depot Street). See photos in *A Vanishing America*, 58; Miller-Smith, 13, 78.

³ Further research indicates that the Rev. Thomas D. Mason was the church's first pastor. He was licensed on July 4, 1837 to administer the rites of matrimony in Marshall County. Like many of the town's other clergymen, Mason was a teacher. Apparently he and his wife both taught, for *The Jackson Mississippian* (March 10, 1837) announces that "the Reverend Dr. Mason and Lady's School, for the present year, commenced in the town of Holly Springs, Miss., on the first Monday of January last."

⁴ Aaron Woodruff operated a Holly Springs Bath House. *Holly Springs Southern Banner* (June 1, 1839).

⁵ James J. Selby, who moved to Holly Springs in 1839, kept a daily log of events. On August 1, 1843, he recorded that "The Baptist Church was struck by lightning, & dreadfully injured." "Sundries Events: 1830-1856," *Tennessee Genealogical Magazine* 31 (Summer 1984): 90. Six years later, fire broke out again, and the Holly Springs correspondent for *The Memphis Eagle* (April 18, 1849) reported that: "a considerable fire this evening consumed a blacksmith shop and a carding machine shop and a coach shop. Several other buildings were on fire, among which was the Baptist Church."

The congregation was small and remained so until recent years.⁶ It is now one of the liveliest congregations in the city.⁷

The second church was of brick and was occupied until 1924. The Rev. E. L. Wesson, now of Dade City, Florida, was pastor at the time, and was largely instrumental in having the church built. A tablet on the building records that it was erected in 1923⁸ and the church organized in 1849.⁹

It is interesting to note that the board of police who conveyed the deed to the first lot March 14, 1837, was composed of L. R. Guy, Kemp S. Holland and Shipman Denton. Undoubtedly Mr. Holland was the father of W. J. L. Holland, editor of *The Reporter* who died in the fever of 1878.

Those receiving the deed for the church were John Hardin, Thomas Loving, David Hardin and Edmund Coldwell.

The Rev. R. A. Morris is the present pastor.

The Rev. C. A. Foster, the missionary to the Episcopal Church in Holly Springs and at Salem, entered on his duties March 1, 1839, and estimated the population of the two places at 3,000 and 300 respectively.¹⁰

⁶ Throughout the South, Baptists early found their greatest strength out in the country. With the advent of paved roads, consolidated schools, and transition from farm to factory, thousands of Baptists moved into town. The Holly Springs Baptist Church which long recorded a membership of under fifty and was smaller than both the Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches, began a period of explosive growth in the 1920s, soon surpassing all the town's white congregations in numbers, including the Methodist Church, which had long held a plurality of the town's white worshipers.

⁷ Belle Strickland Bates was the church's first historian. Her account was published in the local newspaper. See "Baptists Celebrate 90th Year Here," *Holly Springs South Reporter* (October 9, 1930). Most of that document is reprinted in Lois Swaney, *A History of the First Baptist Church* (privately published, 1974).

⁸ See *It Happened Here*, 98.

⁹ The church's existence as an organization seems to date to 1837.

¹⁰ Foster wrote to Bishop Leonidas Polk that the organization of an Episcopal Church in Holly Springs had excited interest because the church used a prayer book in its services. He told the bishop that extra benches had to be procured for the courthouse, where

Mr. Foster's first service here was March 10, and at Salem March 17, Salem was first to adopt a name—St. Andrew's—April 14, and elect a vestry, composed of Dabney Minor, senior warden, Charles L. Thomas, junior warden, William L. Baird, Edward DaShields, and Andrew Robinson Govan.¹

Christ Church was named April 21, and the vestry elected: Judge A. M. Clayton, senior warden, I. B. Clansel, junior warden, Walter Goodman, H. M. Lusher, George A. Wilson, George W. Pittman, Dr. Joseph Bretney, Yelverston T. Newsom.²

The county police, he records, September 23, have presented the church with a handsome lot.

He records August 16, 1840, commencing "using our own Church," and on February 12, 1842, that Bishop James H. Otey consecrated Christ Church.³ This building was sold just

the initial services were conducted. He said: "The Episcopal Church is in every person's mouth as the common topic of conversation." *Holly Springs South Reporter* (July 4, 1929). Foster built a small log house on the site of the present Polk Place on South Craft Street. His estimate of a population of 3,000 seems to have been a bit generous, no doubt due to his excitement at the response to his preaching. The 1840 census lists a figure somewhat lower—1,544.

¹ See Raymond B. McBlain, "Christ Church: Its History and Traditions," address during the Marshall County Centennial, October 25, 1936 (dedicated to Mr. Mickle); Charles N. Dean Jr., "A Century Ago" [A History of Christ Church, Holly Springs] (Holly Springs: Christ Church, [1958]).

² The first Episcopal service in Woodville, Miss., was Oct. 4, 1823, at the courthouse. After the church was organized, the novelty of Protestant services with a liturgy attracted crowds. Mississippians were so unfamiliar with the Episcopal form of organization that the legislature, when asked to charter the church, changed some of the terminology, shifting the titles of "warden" and "vestryman" to "trustee," as the term was used in other denominations. "St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Woodville, Miss." (privately published, no date): 2.

³ Hubert McAlexander notes that money for the erection of this church—"the most charming of the little white-painted church buildings of this early period"—must have been raised before the spring of 1840, when the cotton market collapsed, resulting in what a Holly Springs editor called "these iron times." *Southern Tapestry*, 17. The building occupied the site of the present Christ Church, but faced south.

before the war, to the Roman Catholic Church and moved to its present site.⁴

The present building was erected about 1859, and was of pure Gothic architecture.⁵ Later because of a leaky roof the battlement was removed, detracting much from its appearance. Dr. Blaisdale, rector of Calvary Church, Memphis, on a recent visit here, declared it to be the second handsomest church outside of Memphis in the Tri-States.

Outstanding among a strong line of rectors, are Dr. Hawks who in the [forties] established the first St. Thomas Hall, a military school, whose pupils later rendered signal service to the Confederacy; Dr. Ingraham, internationally-known author of *The Prince of the House of David* and other works; Dr. J. T. Pickett,⁶ of blessed memory; and the Rev. P. G. Sears, now of Houston, Texas, founder of the second St. Thomas Hall.

The Rev. J. B. Caughey is the present rector.

The Methodist Church was established in 1837. The first church building became a residence later, known as the Forman Place and Abe Norfleet Place at the corner of West College and Craft Street.

The lots for the present church were given by the late Robert B. Alexander, father of Mrs. Dora Tyson. The land records show the lot was transferred by Henry Stratton to Wyatt Epps and R. B. Alexander, but no further transfer is recor-

⁴ The structure, described in detail elsewhere in these pages, still stands on East College Avenue.

⁵ Each of the Holly Springs churches occupied a new house of worship at the close of the pioneer period: the Presbyterians in 1848, the Methodists in 1849, the Baptists in 1855, and the Episcopalians in 1858. The Presbyterians, perhaps because of the proximity of their church to the noise and dust of the square, as well as the congregation's rising prosperity, built yet another church in 1860, replacing a structure that was only twelve years old. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 148-53, 195-204; *Southern Tapestry*, 30.

⁶ The Rev. Dr. James T. Pickett, a young widower, had been rector of an Episcopal Church in Paducah, Kentucky, and fled with most of his congregation when Federals captured that city during the Civil War. He accepted a call to Christ Church in 1861 and chose to remain with his flock in Holly Springs even when a wealthy congregation in Louisville, Kentucky, promised him five times the salary that his small parish could offer. See *Civil War Women*, 19-20.

ded—a custom of early donors of church property.¹

As originally constructed the church had no spire, that and the front entrance were added in the seventies. Access before that was gained by a flight of steps covering the front to the second floor.²

Shortly after the war³ court was held for several years in the basement, now used as the Sunday school room.⁴ Court was also held a short while in the Franklin Female College.

The church membership is the largest of any white church in the city, about six hundred.⁵

The present pastor, who arrived this week, is the Rev. N. J. Golding.

All the white churches in the city except the Baptist Church have sponsored schools. Old Franklin Female College was bought by a private stock company in 1890, the name changed to Malone College, after the late Dr. T. J. Malone, and it was opened under the auspices of the Methodist Church, with the late the Rev. J. W.

¹ James J. Selby recorded the festivity surrounding the laying of a cornerstone for the new Methodist Church, September 12, 1848: "This day the cornerstone of the new Methodist Church was laid by the Masons. There was a great turnout of the Sons of Temperance and Odd Fellows. There was the greatest assemblage ever known before in the town of Holly Springs. There was a subscription which amounted to about 700 dollars and a fine sermon preached by the Reverend Mr. Neely, Tuesday." Selby noted that a bell was hung in the new brick Methodist Church, September 11, 1849. *Tennessee Genealogical Magazine* 31 (Fall 1984). Five days later Harriet Pegues, who lived at the family plantation on Spring Creek, noted for her diary the dedication of the new Methodist Church. See information and photos in Miller-Smith,⁷⁷ *Southern Tapestry*, 30.

² In constructing their new church, the Methodists followed the common practice of the era and elevated the audience room to the second floor above the Sunday school hall, in order that the congregation might have a "dedicated sanctuary" reserved exclusively for the worship of God. See *Southern Tapestry*, 30.

³ During the war, a soldier from the Union army took a Bible belonging to the Church. Many years later, it was returned, and is still on display, along with a letter explaining the correspondent's desire to make amends.

⁴ The congregation was paid \$300 per annum by the county for the use of its property.

⁵ See *It Happened Here*, 20-21.

Honnoll as president. It closed several years later.⁶

My good friend, the Rev. J. J. Brooks, of Schlater, Miss., who was here Monday told me that when the church was built the stewards decided to rent pews,⁷ which was bitterly opposed by that pillar of Methodism, Robert B. Alexander, as it would be unjust to the poor. The stewards carried it over him, but that sturdy soldier of the cross at once rented most of the desirable pews and distributed them among those who couldn't afford to rent.⁸

Three church buildings have housed the Presbyterian congregation, all are still standing and in the same block. The old Craft office was the first. The J. A. Miller brick building on the southwest corner of the square was built and used for the second church.⁹

The present church building was begun in 1860 but not completed until after the war.¹⁰

⁶ The college closed in 1898, and the building burned in 1904. *Southern Tapestry*, 85.

⁷ During the nineteenth century, pew rentals were the most common means of meeting the fixed expenses of congregations. Offerings in the church were not received every Sunday, and when collected, were devoted exclusively to benevolent purposes. Many church leaders, including Woodrow Wilson, when he was president of Princeton, decried pew-rentals. The local Presbyterian Church rented its pews each year on the first business day closest to March 28, 1869—the anniversary of the church's dedication. Because an exchange of money in the church was considered unseemly, the bidding was carried on in an office of one of the elders or deacons on the town square. Notice of the annual rentals was given in the local press, with assurances that there were "plenty of seats for strangers." The Holly Springs Presbyterians abolished pew rents in favor of the envelope system, April 17, 1892. *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 202, 299.

⁸ See Randy J. Sparks, *On Jordan's Stormy Banks: Evangelicalism in Mississippi, 1773-1876* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1994): 137.

⁹ This structure, erected in 1848, was the first brick church in the county. The audience room was on the second floor, with a Sunday school hall below. It was sold in 1860 and has been used for commercial purposes ever since. Extensive remodeling has obscured the original appearance, but the Methodists seem to have used the building as a model for their new house of worship built about one year later. See *It Happened Here*, 24; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 105-106.

¹⁰ The church was completed in 1869 with the installation of Bohemian grisaille glass windows, pur-

The church was organized in December 1836, with twenty-four members, who elected James P. Means and R. H. Pattillo¹ elders. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. Daniel L. Gray as moderator.² The first pastor, the Rev. Daniel Baker was called in 1841 after several had declined calls, and became the first pastor at a salary of \$1,000.³

Down the long line of pastors comes like a benediction the memory of the Rev. Dr. John

chased, in part, with money raised by the pastor, the Rev. Henry H. Paine, who went to northern cities seeking contributions to repair war damage to the church. He brought home \$2,005, and with the installation of the windows the church was complete, and the congregation proceeded to its dedication, inviting the Rev. Benjamin Morgan Palmer of New Orleans—the region's most famous pulpiteer—to preach for the occasion. *The Southwestern Presbyterian*, of New Orleans, declared the Holly Springs church "one of the most beautiful rooms in the country." See information and photos in Miller-Smith, 75-76; *It Happened Here*, 66-67; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 195-197; *Southern Tapestry*, 69, 74.

¹ Among the early settlers of Holly Springs, Robert H. Pattillo was descended from an old Presbyterian family. His ancestor the Rev. Henry Pattillo organized the first presbytery in North Carolina. In 1842 the Holly Springs Pattillos moved to Memphis, and a window in the First Presbyterian Church of that city is dedicated to their memory. Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas is descended from the Pattillo family.

² James P. Means was among a company of settlers who came from Fairforest, South Carolina. The family was prominent in that state's history, including the Hon. John H. Means, governor of the state (1850-1852). They first went to Arkansas and then came to Mississippi, most of them settling in the vicinity of Hudsonville in 1836. They brought with them their minister, the Rev. Daniel L. Gray, who founded the Presbyterian Church at Hudsonville and was its pastor until 1845, when he accepted a call to Hendersonville, Kentucky. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 44-47, 120-22.

³ Daniel Baker came to Holly Springs in November 1840. The small Presbyterian Church he found was hardly impressive. Baker recorded that one uneducated man remarked that the church building was so small, "it required a telescope to see it." A registered landmark, the original structure has been preserved and remains as one of the oldest extant examples of "shotgun" architecture in the South and the oldest structure built as a house of worship in Mississippi outside Natchez. It is presently owned by the City of Holly Springs, and has been used for commercial purposes since 1848. It originally stood where the present church is located, but faced south. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 47, 50, 70.

Newton Craig, pastor in the seventies.⁴ Dr. T. W. Raymond was a builder, and established N. M. P. College in 1890, now M. S. College,⁵ an institution that is a credit to Mississippi.⁶ He resigned as president in 1920 and moved to Florida.⁷

⁴ Craig, who guided his flock through the difficulties of reconstruction and the financial panic of 1873, only to see it beset by yellow fever in 1878, went on to become his denomination's Executive Secretary for Home Missions, a post of honor and responsibility, in which he served until his death, October 24, 1900, while preaching before the Synod of Virginia. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 247-71.

⁵ In 1891, upon her retirement Elizabeth Davis Watson sold her school, Maury Institute, to a local stock company which changed its name to North Mississippi Presbyterian College, with Dr. T. W. Raymond, pastor of the local Presbyterian Church as president. Then, following a trend of the late nineteenth century, whereby many private educational institutions came under ecclesiastical control, the college was operated under joint auspices of a local board and the Synod of Memphis of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. In 1903, after synodical lines were withdrawn, the school was placed under the jurisdiction of the Synod of Mississippi and renamed Mississippi Synodical College. It was operated as a two-year liberal arts college for women, with a preparatory department embracing the lower grades. As enrollment expanded, buildings were built, so that the campus eventually covered parts of three blocks. The school was known for high academic standards and was the first two-year college in the state to receive full accreditation (1916). In 1939, as a result of the Great Depression, Mississippi Synodical merged with Belhaven College, another Presbyterian institution, and moved to Jackson, Miss., through which its influence continues to the present. Professor Angela Irvin of Mississippi State University is preparing a doctoral dissertation devoted to the history of Mississippi Synodical College. See information and photos in Miller-Smith, 64-70; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 274-77, 296, 312-19, 324-25, 339-40, 347-48, 359-63, 385-86, 397, 403-405; *Civil War Women*, 139, 215-16; and *Southern Tapestry*, 32, 69, 70, 82, 85, 89, 98, 99; see photos, pp. 99, 130.

⁶ Inez Berryhill Adams, whose uncle, the Rev. C. Z. Berryhill was pastor of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church (1906-1920), attended M. S. C. from 1907 to 1912, gave this description of the school. "It drew students from all religions. Catholic, Jewish, Methodist, and Episcopalian families sent their daughters to this institution. While each girl observed her respective religious service in a local church on Sunday mornings, all attended Uncle Charles's sermon on Sunday evening. I can still hear the clatter of everybody's shoes on the wooden stairs leading to the church sanctuary." *The Class of 1912*, 32.

⁷ The Rev. Thomas Ware Raymond (1858-1940), a minister's son, of Marion, Alabama, was pastor of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church (1888-1891),

I can learn nothing of St. Joseph's Church (Roman Catholic) beyond 1860, when Mrs. Mary Lane¹ deeded the lot to William Henry Elder, Bishop of Natchez.

They had a fairly good congregation after the war. Bethlehem Academy was established in the late sixties by nuns from the Nazareth convent at Bardstown, Ky.²

The church stands out preeminently through service rendered in the epidemic of 1878 by the pastor, Father Oberti, and nuns, whose names appear in another story in today's paper.³

and again from 1894 to 1896. He headed the college from 1891 until 1921. An energetic evangelist, he organized the Presbyterian churches in Clarksdale and Marks in the burgeoning Mississippi Delta, and after retiring to Florida established several more in the rapidly expanding Florida communities around Lake Thonotassa, where he lived until his death. Mrs. Raymond (the former Miss Louie Gwaltney) taught in the college and was organist and director of the Presbyterian Church choir for eighteen years. *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 291-92, 347.

¹ Mary (Mrs. Alexander B.) Lane and her husband were pioneer settlers. They came first to Hudsonville and then moved to Holly Springs in 1840, where they lived in the house at 285 East College Avenue, which in this century was the home of the Frank Hopkins family and later, Mrs. A. E. Bell. It is presently owned by Misses Mary Walker and Frances Gatewood.

² The nineteenth century was a time of growing liturgical interest, and almost all churches moved toward a more formal manner of worship. Communions such as the Roman Catholic and the Episcopal benefited greatly from this interest. Belle Strickland, a lifelong Baptist who grew up in a house where the new St. Joseph's Church now stands, told her diary how on Easter Day, 1868, she went to the Catholic Church "and was highly delighted at the performance." Belle recorded that "there were a great many people there from other churches, and some of them couldn't get seats." *Civil War Women*, 169-70.

³ Details of the organization of St. Joseph's parish have recently come to light and because they are not well known are set forth here. In August 1857, the Very Rev. William Henry Elder, Roman Catholic Bishop of Mississippi, notified the Rev. Thomas Grace, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Memphis that "there are three or four Catholic families in Holly Springs with some few others in the vicinity, fifty miles from Memphis. Most had come as construction laborers for the Mississippi Central Railroad. Grace urged Catholics in Holly Springs to "get up a Church no matter how small...in which Divine Service may be had." At that point in time, Christ

Church (Episcopal) in Holly Springs found itself in need of a larger church. The community's Roman Catholics and bought the beautiful white clapboard chapel which the Episcopalians had built in 1840 and moved it from site of the present Christ Church to the lot on College Avenue where it still stands to-day. Anticipating his bishop's arrival, Father Grace had written that, "Owing to the hard times little progress has been made towards the completion of the Church." He explained that in moving the building, it was found necessary to take off the roof, remove the plastering, the gallery, and other woodwork. The roof had been re-shingled, but besides this, confessed Father Grace, "little has been done." Still, he held out hope of better things, and promised that "no efforts will be spared to bring the church to an early completion." This letter tells all we know about the early appearance of St. Joseph's Church. It had plaster walls—a luxury not every church or home in that era possessed. There was also a slave gallery—erected by the original Episcopal builders—the only one among the town's pioneer-era churches. The gallery was omitted or used for other purposes by the Catholic parish. When Bishop Elder arrived to consecrate the church in November 1857, he found the re-fitting incomplete but lent encouragement and hallowed the work, consecrating the parish to the honor of St. Joseph, the earthly father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The little church served well, for in less than three years, the Catholic community in Holly Springs increased to more than 300—far exceeding the size of the Episcopal parish which the little church had formerly served. Holly Springs was now headquarters of the Mississippi Central Railroad, and its shops, along with the iron foundry, were all based in the community. The congregation was visited once a month by a priest from Memphis. Soon a rectory was purchased and a parochial school organized—one of five such Catholic institutions in the state. James J. Pillar, *The Catholic Church in Mississippi, 1837-1865* (New Orleans: Hauser Press, 1964); Sister Joan Kobe, D. W. "History of the Old St. Joseph's Church," (unpub. typescript, Oct. 4, 1994); See also *It Happened Here*, 29-30.

2.

SADNESS IN LOSS OF THE CHURCH IN THE WOODS.

Destruction of Sylvestria House of Worship Jan. 30, 1931
 Serves to Recall Many Sacred Memories of the Old Days.—
 First Structure Believed to have been Built in the Thirties.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (February 19, 1931).¹ Sylvestria—beautiful name, meaning "Church in the Woods."²

The destruction of old Sylvestria Church Friday, January 30, 1931, brought a catch at the heart to many who hear of it, both white and colored, regardless of church affiliations.

For it was not only the house of God, hallowed by many sacred memories, but the mention of Sylvestria calls it to mind as the central point in a community of cultivated, intelligent and lovable people.

Practically all of the old settlers have gone to their reward, and most of the living and descendants of Sylvestria families are now living in towns and cities, principally in Holly Springs and Memphis. Many of the older settlers sleep in the churchyard hard by.

Within possibly twenty-five years ago the services and revivals there were well attended, drawing people from town and county. The tender spark, too, was kept alight, for as someone remarked the other day, more courtships originated or were furthered, both in town and county, from buggy rides to Old Sylvestria, than any church in the county.

I am greatly indebted to Mrs. J. C. Mulcahy of Memphis for some history of the church and neighborhood. While a member of another branch of the faith, Mrs. Mulcahy spent the earlier years of her life in that community before coming with her husband and children to Holly Springs to

live.³ Her gifted daughter, Miss Pickett Mulcahy,⁴ wrote at her mother's dictation the reply to my questionnaire, from which I quote:

"There were two churches. The first was built across the road from the present site. It was small, and patterned after the colonial churches. Like the church in Virginia where Patrick Henry delivered his immortal address,⁵ it had doors on each side; one on the east for the ladies and the one on the west for the gentlemen. The doors at the end of the church were for the negroes.

BUILT PROBABLY IN THE '30'S

"The first was built before Mother's recollection. Mother's parents, the Cottrells,⁶ Walls

³ Chesley Smith remembered that the Mulcahys lived in a house built and occupied by Hugh Craft when he first came to Holly Springs. (After Craft moved into his large home a few doors south, his daughter Martha and husband James Fort, moved into his former residence.) The home, which had two entrance doors set side by side (one to the parlor, one to a front bedroom) stood where the City Hall is now, and was later moved back behind City Hall and the old Presbyterian Church (the former Chamber of Commerce building). Part of the property was torn down in the 1990s to make room for an addition to the City Hall, but a portion of it remains and provides offices for the City Recreation Authority. Mrs. Mulcahy was known for her beautiful lace, and her daughter Bessie, played the organ at the Episcopal Church. Various other people lived in the house. Lucille and Corinne Martin lived there for years. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 41-42, 66-67.

⁴ Named for the Episcopal rector, the Rev. Dr. James Thomas Pickett, Miss Mary Pickett Mulcahy (1880-1982) spent all of her long life in Holly Springs.

⁵ Mrs. Mulcahy no doubt refers to the venerable Henrico Parish Church—now known as St. John's—which still occupies a prominent hilltop a few blocks southeast of the central business district in Richmond, Virginia.

⁶ *Southern Tapestry*, 16, 107.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² Located ten miles northeast of Holly Springs, near Hudsonville, was settled by the Cottrell and Wall families. The died out by 1925. *Southern Tapestry*, 14, 16, 41, 107.

and some other families settled in the neighborhood in 1832 and 1833. The church was probably built in the '30's—at the latest in the early '40's. The second was built in 1855 or 1856.

"Benjamin Cottrell built both churches and gave the land. He was great-grandfather of both Frank Wall and his wife, Lillian Wall. Frank's grandmother was Mary Ann Dabney (niece of Mrs. Peter Scales); her first husband was Tom Cottrell, son of Benjamin Cottrell. Benjamin Cottrell's other son was doctor (a bachelor), and his only daughter, Mary Glover Cottrell was the first wife of Dr. J. W. Gray,¹ and the mother of Mrs. Hettie Gray Ross and the late the Rev. Benjamin C. Gray (father of Mrs. Frank Wall)."

In reply to my question—What was the name of Mr. Benj. Cottrell's school? Was he Rev.? She replies:

"He was not Rev. The school was called Cottrell's Select School for Young Ladies. Among the pupils were Miss Em Polk, Kate McCorkle (wife of Dr. Dancy), Jane Herndon Thomas (wife of Andrew Jackson), Susan and Martha Lesseure (mother and aunt of Ben Powell), Ellen and Paralee Glover (the latter, wife of Dr. Nathaniel Leggett), Diana Holland, Charlotte Wall (Mrs. Richard Cheatham).

"Lucy Minor Scales (Mrs. Humphreys of Biloxi, aunt of Lillian Wall), Ellen Scales, Mary Scales (wife of the Rev. Mr. Robinson), Mary Marsh (I think married a Funderburg), the daughter of Squire John Record; Miss Mary McPherson, Miss Eliza and Puss Jarrett (sisters of Jno. B. Jarrett) and Martha Pegues (married Bob Wall, great grandfather of Frank Wall).

"Misses Melissa and Lou McQueen (great aunts or aunts of S. W. Mullins) taught in this school a few years before it closed. Afterwards they continued to live with the Cottrells and continued the school, taking boys as well as girls."

MEANING OF SYLVESTRIA

"What is the meaning of Sylvestria? Is it 'Sylvan Rest'? There is a word "sylvesterian," meaning pertaining to the woods or erected in the woods, I think, and the reference clerks in

¹ Gray was a Holly Springs physician, who built a house at the corner of East Park Avenue and North Walthall Street.

both Cossitt and Goodwyn Libraries think, it comes from the Latin words for Woods and Church, and means "Church in the Woods."

What are the names of some of the Methodist families who lived around there?

"Scales, Wall, Lem Smith, Kemp Holland (who married the sister of Commodore Maury), John McKee (father of Mrs. J. C. Mulcahy), Dr. J. W. Gray, Dr. Glover (whose widow married Richard Daniel, Dr. Chesley Daniel was their son), Richard Daniel, Squire John Record, Oliver, Pegues, McPherson, Marsh, Trousdale, Hop Ferrell (grandfather of Mrs. Miller Nelson), Benj. Cottrell, Tom Cottrell (half-brother of Benj. Cottrell), John Isom, or Isham (buried at Old Hudsonville).²

"Mother does not remember the names of any of the early ministers. Before the war Sylvestria always had a resident preacher who lived with some of the church families. Afterwards they had circuit riders. Mother remembers that Parson McPherson and Parson Jarrett³ (father of John Jarrett) lived there and were preachers, but is not sure they or the Rev. Robinson (who married Mary Scales) were ever stationed at Sylvestria, but thinks the first two were.

"In later days an Englishman named Shepherd was their preacher. He married Mrs. Harris (sister of Ed Jones, Sr., of Hudsonville). Jim Bowen (cousin of Mrs. Hyer, wife of Dr. W. F. Hyer) preached there.

"Mr. Cottrell built the churches and the following men stood for the minister's salary—Bob and Billie Wall, and their brother-in-law, Parson McPherson (grandfather of Mrs. Sue Burns), Peter Scales (grandfather of Mrs. Lillian Wall), John McKee (father of Mrs. J. C. Mulcahy), Kemp Holland (father of Kemp and Will), and Dr. Glover. Others paid part but these men were responsible."

² Jonathan Isom (1822-1909) rests in the Hudsonville Presbyterian Church cemetery.

³ The Rev. Nathaniel Jarrett was a cotton planter and Methodist minister, prominent in the county's early history. He purchased a plantation east of Waterford belonging to Henry Love, a mixed-blood Chickasaw tribal leader instrumental in the sale of his people's land after the treaty that resulted in their removal to Oklahoma. See "The Saga of a Mixed-Blood Chickasaw Dynasty," *Journal of Mississippi History* 49 (1987): 289-300; Southern Tapestry, 24.

Dr. S. A. Steel, now of Monroe, La., also preached at Sylvestria, Miss Mulcahy informs me in a later letter. Dr. Steel is author of the "Creole Gumbo" column in *The Sunday Commercial Appeal*. His first wife was a Miss Burns, aunt of Mrs. C. N. Dean, and her mother and family lived for several years on the old Holland Place in the neighborhood.¹

Bishop Elias Cottrell of Holly Springs,² a bishop of the C. M. E. Church, who was born and reared in the Sylvestria neighborhood, also writes a tribute to the memory and history of Sylvestria:

"The burning of this old historic building takes away one of the original landmarks of Southern Methodism, that was once in years gone by one of the most unique structures known to Methodism in North Mississippi.

BOTH RACES WORSHIPPED THERE

"For more than four score years the white and colored worshipped together in this church, both races ministered to by consecrated ministers of the Southern M. E. Church.³ These ministers

¹ Mrs. Burns named the place "Airliewood Farms." Her granddaughter Jean Burns Dean then used that name for the Coxe Place, on Salem Avenue in Holly Springs, which she and her husband Mayor Charles N. Dean later purchased for their home. Hubert H. McAlexander to R. Milton Winter, October 21, 2002.

² Born in 1853 near Hudsonville, Elias Cottrell had been befriended by his former master, R. H. Parham, who gave him a house. As an adult, he learned to read by the light of a pine-knot fire, studying books that had formerly belonged to R. H. Parham's late brother William, an Oxford graduate, who had been a minister. Cottrell even became proficient in Hebrew, which a kindly Nashville rabbi taught him. He became a bishop around 1898 and served as presiding bishop longer than any other in the history of his communion up to that time. His elaborate towered house stood on West Boundary Street. Chesley Smith recalled Bishop Cottrell's regal appearance as he went about his clerical affairs in a chauffeur-driven buggy. Cottrell Cemetery, where he lies buried, is named in his memory. See information and photos in *A Vanishing America*, 71; *It Happened Here*, 25-26; Miller-Smith, 46; *Southern Tapestry*, 108, 124.

³ In former days, the present United Methodist Church was commonly known as the Methodist Episcopal Church. The name "Methodist Episcopal" distinguished the descendants of John Wesley from their

in the Southern M. E. Church constituted the highest type of Christian brotherhood, they rendered an unselfish service. Racial lines were not as rigidly drawn in the Methodist Church as they are today. Uppermost in the mind of the Christian ministry was the conversion of souls, with them it was not white, nor black souls. They prayed and wept over those dark skinned people as they did over their own race.⁴

"The writer remembers well some of those consecrated ministers, for he was baptized and taken into the church at an early age by the sainted Joe Brooks. The names of others are as follows: Boswell, Bristol, Chairs and many others too numerous to mention here.

"One of the most remarkable characters of that far off day was Benjamin Cottrell,⁵ an owner of slaves and yet kind and conservative in his way of dealing with them, requiring them to keep the Sabbath, attend church services; he tolerated no drinking swearing nor gambling among the slaves. They were as well clothed and fed as ordinary white folks. He was an educator, and, according to my recollection, of Presbyterian persuasion, while he was identified in his religious proclivities with the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church.

"In the stormy days of the American Civil War this old church on many occasions housed and sheltered both the blue and the gray.

"I am sure the hearts of many of the colored people, namely those of the old settlers and their immediate offspring, feel deeply touched in the loss of old Sylvestria Church. Of course the majority of these old colored people have gone in.

"I wish to mention a few of these consecrated spirits of those darker days, such as Joe, Boston and Bob Walls, one of the most enthusiastic, fervent religious spirits was Bob Walls, he did not quench the spirit, but shouted fearlessly in the white congregations; in fact shouting did not excite white people then, as it does now-a-days.

neighbors, in the communion then known officially as the "Protestant Episcopal" Church.

⁴ See Kenneth K. Bailey, "The Post-Civil War Racial Separations in Southern Protestantism: Another Look," *Church History* 46 (December 1977): 544-73.

⁵ See *Southern Tapestry*, 16.

"If we had a type of Bob Walls to get loose in one of these modern congregations they would be shocked into a hysterical fit. But the consecrated Christian spirit of that day was moved to shake the hand of "Uncle Bob" and bid him God speed. Uncle Bob with tears falling from his eyes brought tears from many of the white folks.

"The writer feels very sympathetically touched, remembering the early days of the intimate contact of the two races. These few lines are only a feeble recollection of the gone by days.

"God bless all of the interesting friends and may they emulate the spirit of the Fathers. E. Cottrell."

3.

SOME REMINISCENCES OF OLD SYLVESTRIA CHURCH.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (March 12, 1931).¹ The Rev. S. A. Steel, now of Monroe, La., whose interesting column "Creole Gumbo" is a feature of *The Sunday Commercial Appeal*, had some reminiscences of Old Sylvestria Church in his "Creole Gumbo" recently.

Mr. Steel, now retired, is one of the most prominent ministers of the Southern Methodist Church.

While in active service he filled many important charges, among them The First Methodist Church in Memphis. It was during his four years ministry there that the plan and financial foundation of the present beautiful edifice were organized.²

Mr. Steel was identified with Old Sylvestria in his boyhood, as he tells, and in manhood he married for his first wife Miss Burns, whose family lived in the Sylvestria neighborhood, and he was a frequent visitor there and in Holly Springs.³

Of the old church and community Mr. Steel writes:

"Recently one of the landmarks of the Old South perished in the flames. It was a Methodist Church in the country about 10 miles north of Holly Springs, Miss., known as "Sylvestria." My earliest recollection I date from old Sylvestria Church, I was about four years old. My father was the preacher on the "Holly Springs Circuit"

and we lived close to the church. I had a little dog named Ring, because he had a white band around his throat. I was sitting on the steps of the church when Ring started a rabbit in a bunch of grass near by. He ran the rabbit into a hollow tree not far away, and it would have been hard to tell which was the more excited, the dog or I.

"My father came with an ax, cut a hole in the truck of the tree and twisted the bunny out. I can hear that rabbit squealing to this day and see Ring jumping to get him as my father held him high out of his reach. Now there is something in me, or is it "I," the mysterious reality we call the mind, that has held that scene for 78 years, so that it is as vivid as if it happened yesterday! Whatever it is that has held on to the memory for 78 years, through all the changes that I have known, is a something that the time does not change, and one may well believe is immortal.

"At that time Sylvestria was the religious center of as fine a community as could be found in the South, people of intelligence, culture, and wealth—Cottrells, the Walls, and Pegues, and McPhersons and many more. Most of them from old Virginia and South Carolina.

"Some one should write the history of Marshall County. Before the Civil War it was a bright spot on the landscape of the Old South, and Holly Springs was a center of the finest culture. Its homes were nurseries of noble character, and, perhaps, there was no community more representative of the best in our southern civilization. A competent writer could make a book with such a subject. All is changed there now; yet there lingers around many of its old homes the fragrance of the past when southern knighthood was in flower."

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² The historic church still stands at the corner of Poplar Avenue and Second Street in downtown Memphis.

³ Mickle later wrote that "Dr. Steel, who was born October 5, 1849, was well known in Holly Springs and a frequent visitor here during his pastorate at First Methodist Church, Memphis, when Mrs. Burns, his first wife's mother, lived on the plantation near Hudsonville. The first Mrs. Steel was the sister of the late Miss Christine Burns and James H. Burns." *South Reporter* (December 21, 1933).

4.

LOCAL GIRL COMPILES HISTORY OF METHODIST CHURCH.**Information Gathered from Old Records.**

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (April 30, 1936).¹ If anyone has ever attempted to "set in order"² events which make up the history of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Holly Springs, it could not be found by whom or when such a paper was written. It remains for the writer³ to gather such facts as old records and living members could furnish. The records of the church are poor data from which to gain an estimate of what was done by faithful men and women but it is some data so we will relate some things concerning the Holly Springs Church.

Back in a drawer in the pastor's study was found a historical church record which proposed to be records of presiding elders, pastors, and members since its organization. In addition to this record there are found other records which tell of the activities of the church during the years.

The church was founded in 1837 as a plate on the outside of the building in front will show. Its first pastor was William Pearson and first presiding elder was David O. Shattock. At that time the charge was located in the Memphis Conference as the North Mississippi Annual Conference was so included until 1873. Up until 1882 the charge is designated as the 'Holly Springs Circuit,' since when it has been a station. There were few stations in the North Mississippi Conference when it was organized, leaving the impression that the Holly Springs Church must have grown rapidly in membership and strength.

The present congregation worships in the building which its founders erected;³ who can doubt that they built wisely and well? For eighty-six years the spire of the old church has pointed heavenward and the bell has called its thousands for worship. The building is a substantial brick structure furnishing a capacious auditorium⁴ with a balcony. Joined to the rear of the church is the parsonage from all records having been built at the same time as the church.⁵ These buildings have been renovated and remodeled from time to time. Years ago the entrance was changed from an ascent from the street to an entrance by way of winding stairs through a vestibule.⁶

³ The present building was erected in 1849, supplanting a frame structure located on what is now West College Avenue.

⁴ Whereas the architectural term "sanctuary" properly designates the area immediately surrounding a church's altar, in the more formal churches it has recently come to designate the room where services are held. In the nineteenth century, when most churches eschewed notions that church buildings were holier than any other part of God's creation, the worship space was usually called an "audience chamber." It was the English architect Christopher Wren who declared that "our churches are auditories," thus highlighting the Protestant concern that churches be designed so that all could see and hear.

⁵ The Old Parsonage, a brick structure, was added in 1862. It was almost complete when Federal troops occupied the town. Materials to complete the house were brought through the Federal blockade between Holly Springs and Memphis. One of its most interesting features is a passageway that allowed the minister to go into the pulpit from his bedroom on the second floor.

⁶ Mr. Mickle elsewhere notes (see p. 315) that when this work was done, Methodist services were held at the Baptist Church 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays, and at the Presbyterian Church the 2nd. Sunday school and Thursday prayer meetings were held, in the Baptist Church. He states that Baptist and Presbyterian services were temporarily adjusted to accommodate the Methodist, adding that "Before the front was added to the Methodist Church a broad flight of steps swept up to the auditorium."

¹ See St. Luke 1:1 (KJV).

² The author of this article, Ruby Sigman, was no doubt inspired by Mr. Mickle's series of historical essays, and since the article appears in *The South Reporter* in the same period as many of Mickle's articles and is similar in style to them, it was felt that this article on the history of what is now the First United Methodist Church should be treated as part of the general series which appeared under Mr. Mickle's editorial supervision. See also *It Happened Here*, 20-21.

It is interesting to note how the congregation has remodeled the church to fill the urging needs of modern church services and Sunday school. George S. Inge, lively and energetic pastor in 1888-1889, so led the congregation in changes in the building that he made a lasting impression. During his pastorate an organ space was made and organ installed;¹ the basement was renovated and made into rooms for prayer meeting² and Sunday school.

Since that time many improvements have been made in the building; the available space has been so wisely partitioned until authorities say the Elementary Division is really well equipped in comparison with other churches. Each year has marked some improvement in the building; but there is a settled conviction in the minds of the present congregation that a Sunday school annex will be the next improvement

¹ Pipe organs were inordinately expensive—the lowest price was \$250 in 1825—and could only be installed by very prosperous churches. Less affluent churches used portable instruments, known as "cabinet organs" or melodeons. Christ Church, Holly Springs, was the only congregation in the county to have a pipe organ in the antebellum period. It was destroyed by General Grant's soldiers during the Civil War. After hostilities subsided, the Episcopalians, along with the local Presbyterian and Methodists, went to work raising money for organs, but not all thought such expenditures were wise. On August 13, 1865, Robert B. Alexander recorded in his diary that when his church "had the vote taken whether there should be a Melodeon in the Church. I voted for it." But he remarked that "some of the sisters got very hot indeed & jumped up & run out of the Church." Thus, with a bit of sarcasm, Alexander reported a few weeks later (September 17, 1865): "Went to church, heard Rev. Johnson preach to the young ladies of the town. They had the Melodeon playing away. Farewell to Methodism in earnest." See photo in *Southern Tapestry*, 86-87, which shows the Methodist Church before the present organ loft was added. The Presbyterian ladies reported in their congregation's *Church Circular* for 1874 that they had collected \$255.30 for this purpose, and an instrument was in use there by March 1885. Its successor, a Pilcher, installed on Easter Day, 1920, was powered by a water wheel. The Methodists purchased a pipe organ in 1888. It was a hand-pumped affair, which was used until the present instrument—also a Pilcher—with electro-pneumatic action--was installed in 1926. See Lizzie B. Craft, "Presbyterial History of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church" [1932]: 57; "History of the First Methodist Church of Holly Springs" (pamphlet, c. 1980).

² Both the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches seem to have used their downstairs lecture halls for the Wednesday prayer meeting.

made. For this annex the church has bought an adjacent lot, the Rev. I. D. Borders,³ pastor 1907-08-09 was of great assistance in acquiring this valuable piece of property.

Passing from the church building let us examine in order laymen, women, the pastors and finally the spirit of the Church.

In politics someone has said that Holly Springs always had a candidate for every district office and the time was when many candidates for state offices hailed from the town. The Holly Springs Church has furnished some strong laymen; not all of them have been active in conference circles, but may have been active in the local church. We have no records to give us any estimate of the good men who steered the church through the perilous time just preceding and following the Civil War, but we find among the list of stewards occasionally on the lips of the people now such names as R. B. Alexander, James W. Fant, J. P. Norfleet, J. C. Daniel (a beloved physician), J. G. Leach, R. G. McNamee, James T. Fant, and Dr. T. J. Malone. In more recent years the names of R. K. Luckie, and M. A. Greene appear. All who have been mentioned above have passed from earthly life. Many of the present officials have been such for a number of years. Among the older ones we might mention L. A. Rather, Sr., L. G. Fant, C. H. Curd, W. H. Jones and S. W. Mullins. The remarks just made in no way attempt to give an adequate estimate of the lives of many of the good private laymen who have wrought well and gone on before us.

The day is here, yea always has been here, since the women came to the tomb of the Master and before, when women will take the most active part of the church work. The Holly Springs Church is no exception. Holly Springs people remember with joy and thanks, such names as Mrs. Nannie B. Fant, Mrs. Eliza M. Fant, Miss Emma E. Fant, and Mrs. Carrie West Smith,⁴ all of whose names appear on memorial

³ Mr. Borders was the first in the county to own an automobile, and according to Chesley Smith, the ladies of the town would always telephone Mr. Borders to see if his car would be on the streets before venturing out in their buggies, lest their horses be frightened. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, addendum; *Southern Tapestry*, 109.

⁴ Carrie West (Mrs. L. A.) Smith was a talented woman, who for a long time put on all the local plays and decorated for all the weddings. Her husband died in the yellow fever of 1878 at the age of twenty-four.

windows. With equal interest are the names of Mrs. J. W. Honnoll and Maggie Fennell.

The church now has a long list of faithful and active women. The ministers are the men who make a church. People are largely molded by the strength and weaknesses of their ministers, hence when mention is made of the names and characters of the appointed we can find much of the secret of growth and otherwise. For many years Holly Springs stood as one of the first charges of the Conference in size and quality of work commanded. Today it has not lost any of the qualities which it has had in the past to make it a splendid charge but there are now many charges its equal and more so in size. They have grown to her in numbers. Holly Springs demanded the best of ministers and the people now speak of the great sermons by past masters of that life. The following is a list of the pastors.

William Pearson [1837, 1840], Joseph Travis [1838], Sam L. Scott [1839], Philip P. Neely [1841], L. D. Mullins [1842-1843], A. T. Scruggs [1844], M. J. Blackwell [1845-1846], S. J. Henderson [1847-1848], Gilford Jones [1849], James A. Temple [1850], W. C. Babb [1852], L. H. Davis [1853, 1867], D. C. Wells [1854], W. H. Gillespie [1855], E. T. Hart [1856], Amos Kendall [1857], J. T. Meriwether [1858], Elias Jackson [1859-1860], A. J. See [1861-1862], W. C. Johnson [1863], Joseph Brooks 1864-1865], George K. Brooks [1866], A. M. Barrington [1868], E. E. Hamilton [1869-1870], William Shepherd [1871-1872], T. S. Campbell [1873], C. J. Nugent [1874], J. W. Lowrance [1875-1878], J. D. Cameron [1879-1880], J. M. Boone [1881-1884], E. H. Moon [1885-1887], Geo. S. Inge [1888], J. A. Randolph [1889], J. W. Honnoll [1890], T. W. Lewis [1891-1893], J. S. Oakley [1894-1897], W. S. Shipman [1898], J. W. Price [1899-1900], J. W. Dorman [1901], W. G. Harbin [1902], R. H. B. Gladney [1903-1906], I. D. Borders [1907-1909], O. W. Bradley [1910-1911], R. O. Brown [1912-1913], W. N. Duncan [1914], H. G. Henderson [1915-1916], E. R. Smoot [1917-1918], W. I. Stormalt [1919], W. R. Lott [1920-1923], W. W. Woppard [1925-1927], J. M. Bradley [1928-1929], C. M. Chap-

man [1930], N. J. Golding [1931-1934], and J. V. Bennett [1935].¹

It is readily seen from the list of ministers that Holly Springs Church has had her share of the varied talents which appear in a Methodist Annual Conference. God alone can tell of the good done by this galaxy of ministers of the Gospel.

The spirit and general atmosphere of the church is always individual and special. All churches have their own peculiar characteristics in this matter.

Methodism in Holly Springs has a splendid record. The church has more members than all the other churches in the city combined. If it does not grow and become more and more a power for righteousness then certainly the spirit will remove her candle of light.

Her father was General A. M. West, president of the Mississippi Central Railroad. She taught Latin and Greek in the local schools. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 58.

¹ Dates of service supplied from "A Brief History of the First Methodist Church of Holly Springs, Mississippi" (Holly Springs: privately published, 1965).

5.

LIGHTNING SETS FIRE TO EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Steeple Hit by Bolt Sunday Afternoon and Fire Fighters Have Great Difficulty in Combating Spectacular Blaze—Extinguished Late that Night.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (June 2, 1929). Lightning struck the steeple of Christ Episcopal Church shortly after five o'clock Sunday afternoon, setting fire to the woodwork, and about half the steeple was destroyed before the fire could be extinguished.

The lightning bolt hit the steeple near the top, but below the cross and the ball at its base. Smoke issued from the spot almost immediately.

The steeple is covered with tin and the fire inside burned slowly. Much difficulty was found in reaching it with water from the outside because of the height and on the interior because of the network of timbers built to give the steeple wind resistance.

When the support had burned out the large ball and its anchor, both of heavy wood with cross atop crashed down, smashing in the roof over the northeast corner. Neither the cross nor the ball were much damaged.

The fire seemed extinguished about 6:30, but burst out again an hour later. Deaderick Smith, Claud Shaw, Frank Williams and Morris Myers made their way through the timbers, drawing the fire hose after them and the fire was finally put out about ten o'clock.

The loss is covered by insurance and while no definite action has yet been taken by the rector and vestry it is probable the steeple will be restored as before.

Edward H. Crump of Memphis, who attended Christ Church Sunday school in boyhood, was in the city at the time of the fire and offered to call out the aid of the Memphis fire department, if needed.

Mr. Crump was on the ground during the earlier stage of the fire, in the downpour of rain, helping in work and sound advice.¹

Morris Samek, now of Aberdeen, who was in the city took his old place with the fire company and did good work.²

The imminence of destruction of the historic old church seemed to affect everyone and urge them to help.

Christ Church which the Rev. Charles Blaisdell of Memphis during his visit here declared to be the most beautiful Episcopal church except one in the Memphis territory, was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. William Mercer Green, October 7, 1858, the Rev. J. H. Ingraham being rector. Bishop Green was the grandfather of the Rt. Rev. William Mercer Green, the present bishop coadjutor of the diocese of Mississippi.³

The cost of the building was \$8,961.74. It was built of brick and would cost today several times that amount. An additional outlay of \$472 was made for altar cloth, cushions, chairs and furnace. Organ and pews were also added but the parish records do not show the cost.

The church edifice as originally constructed was of pure Gothic style and had a parapet

¹ Mayor Crump made it his custom to come out to Holly Springs on Sundays to visit his aged mother.

² The town had a volunteer fire department in those days.

³ Locals were proud of the new church. Dr. Willis M. Lea wrote his cousin in North Carolina, January 1, 1859, that: "There is much building going on here—several large buildings on the square—Masonic Hall very large, 3 story—several stores and other buildings under contract besides depot buildings etc. etc." and that "the new Episcopal Church would pass well in any city." Cited in *Southern Tapestry*, 48; see photos in Miller-Smith, pp. 79-81.

around the roof and two buttresses flanking the entrance. The parapet was removed many years ago to prevent leaking and the buttresses gave way to the present entrance of the church.

Two high pulpits flanked the chancel and a gallery was placed near the entrance for slaves, several of whom were members. The choir at first was placed at the farther end of the church from the chancel.

While Rev. P. G. Sears was rector through the beneficence of the late Kate (Mrs. Frank W.) Dancy, a sanctuary¹ was built and the choir and organ moved up to the chancel.²

A beautiful altar window, "In the Garden," was destroyed by a storm. The late Frank M. Crump and his brother Dabney H. Crump replaced the window to the memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. James M. and Carrie [Smith] Crump.

Prior to the erection of the present Christ Church the congregation worshiped in a wooden building that stood on the same site. It was sold to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, removed to its present site on College Avenue and remodeled to their need.

¹ In Anglican and Roman Catholic parlance the word 'sanctuary' is reserved for the part of the church in or near the chancel rails. Corresponding to the holy of holies in the Hebrew temple, it is reserved for the use of sacramental ministers. Stressing the equality of clergy and laity, Methodists and Presbyterians use the word to designate the entire worship space, and Baptists, eschewing any notion that God is more present in the church than the world, stress the room's use for preaching and speak of it as an auditorium.

² Christ Church was the first in Holly Springs known to have a furnace. Heating was rare in American churches until after 1840 when the hot air furnace was invented. North Mississippi Methodists only began installing them after 1850, and the throughout the 1860s, the Holly Springs Presbyterians simply dismissed Sunday school during the winter months. Indeed, the provision of heat in the new Christ Church in 1859 may have been a selling point—perhaps even more inviting than its pipe organ. See William W. Manross, *The Episcopal Church in the United States, 1800-1840: A Study in Church Life* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1938): 152. The original pews may still be seen in Christ Church, made according to the prevailing Victorian technique. A careful observer can see how the pews were reconfigured during the Dancy renovations to create a center aisle.

Christ Church has been rich in the line of its rectors, some of them of outstanding ability. Dr. Frank Hawks was forced to come south on account of his health, coming from either St. Thomas or Grace Church, New York, to this parish. His reputation as a pulpit orator was continent wide.³

He established St. Thomas Hall, a military school here before the Civil War, with Gen. Claudius Sears of the old Army as military instructor. Its cadets gave good account of themselves on the battlefields of the Confederacy, one, Edward Cary Walthall, rising to the rank of major-general.

Dr. Ingraham was rector of the time of his death in 1860. He wrote many books of note, and his *Prince of the House of David* is found in most libraries today. It was translated into several languages.⁴

Dr. Pickett, scholarly and profound, was unexcelled as a reader of the lessons and beautiful ritual of the Episcopal Church. His sermons are still spoken of among the older members.⁵

The Rev. P. G. Sears, now of Houston, Texas and for twenty years rector of Christ Church,

³ Called by one of the Episcopal Church's premier historians "an eloquent preacher who had no peer during his life," the Rev. Francis Lister Hawks, D.D. (1798-1866) was indeed well-known. A historian of the Episcopal Church in North Carolina, he was four times elected to his Church's episcopate (the second was during his tenure in Holly Springs), but each time complications arose which prevented his being consecrated. His great ambition was to found a great institution of higher learning. Remaining in Holly Springs for just over a year, he became frustrated at the slow progress of St. Thomas Hall and departed in 1845 to found what became Tulane University in New Orleans, which also grew slowly and caused his departure from that city after a few years. He returned to the North and died as the much-loved rector of Calvary Church in New York City. See Louis Comfort Tiffany, *A History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America* (New York: Christian Literature Co., 1895): 448, 477; *Memoirs of Mississippi*, 2:325. Clayton, *Centennial Address*, 10-11; Hamilton, 107; *Southern Tapestry*, 29.

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⁵ Author Sherwood Bonner loosely modeled a minister in her novel *Like Unto Like* (1878) after the Holly Springs rector.

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6.

HISTORICAL DATA IN EPISCOPAL RECORDS.

Many Famous Names Connected with Organization of Christ Church
Here in 1839.—Building Was Consecrated in 1842 by Bishop Otey.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (July 4, 1929). Most of the historical data in regard to Christ Church printed in last week's *South Reporter* with the story of the fire was obtained from the old parish records.

Some interesting matter in regard to the city as well as the church had to be passed over at the time.

The records begin with the arrival of the Rev. C. A. Foster March 1, 1839, to take charge of the missionary station of Holly Springs and Salem, which in his first paragraph he said had populations of 3000 and 300 respectively. Churches were organized at Salem April 14 as St. Andrew's, and at Holly Springs Apr. 21 as Christ Church.¹

In his first report, June 16, to the Board of Missions, Dr. Foster writes:

"Holly Springs is a place of considerable importance having a population from 3,000 to 5,000 souls, and daily increasing." He adds that if the standard had been planted two years before the membership of Christ Church would have been much larger.

Services were held in the courthouse and increased attendance made it necessary to add five more benches.

He had found on arrival in Holly Springs nine Episcopal families and six communicants, and these had increased to fourteen families and ten communicants.

He received a request to make an announcement for the next day; it was addressed: "To the clergyman who officiates at the courthouse."

Salem was first to organize and elected Dabney Minor senior warden, Charles L. Thomas junior warden,² William L. Baird, treasurer, Edward DaShields, secretary, Andrew Robinson Govan.

Dabney Minor was the father of the late Mrs. Belton Mickle. His plantation was called Woodlawn. Charles Thomas was the great grandfather of Mrs. Hanns Wittjen and Mrs. Tom Coffey now of Holly Springs.

Besides being a large planter, Mr. Thomas was a leading lawyer at Holly Springs, though he lived at his plantation home "The Lodge" two miles north of Hudsonville.

William L. Baird was an ancestor of Douglas Baird, who but recently retired as treasurer of Christ Church.

Andrew R. Govan was the ancestor of the large Govan family that figured in Mississippi and Arkansas. His son, the late Col. George M. Govan, was secretary of state in Mississippi.

The first vestry of Christ Church was composed of Judge A. M. Clayton senior warden, I. Boliene Clausel junior warden, Walter Goodman treasurer, H. M. Lusher secretary, George A. Wilson, Y. T. Newsome, George W. Pittman, Dr. Joseph Bretney and Dr. Thomas.

¹ See *The Episcopal Church in Mississippi, 1763-1992* (Jackson: Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, 1992). Foster built a log cottage on the site of the house on South Craft Street, presently known as the Polk Place.

² The designation of junior and senior wardens from among the members of the Vestry seems to be an Anglican practice unique to its American province. The nomenclature was derived from the Masonic Orders.

Judge Clayton was a prominent member of the Holly Springs bar and a large planter. He was a neighbor of Charles Thomas and his plantation "Woodcote," was within the boundary of St. Andrew's parish. It is not known why he was affiliated with Christ Church. He was grandfather of Mrs. Rice T. Fant of Clayton, Miss.

Walter Goodman was to be president of the Mississippi Central Railroad now the Illinois Central, constructed in the fifties, and his office still stands across the street from the Presbyterian Church¹ and his home was on the site of E. M. Smith's residence.²

George A. Wilson was the grand-uncle of the late Mrs. Kate Sherwood Bonner McDowell and the late Mrs. David McDowell. Nothing is known now of the other members of the vestry.

Both congregations were taking steps to build church and have their parishes admitted into the Diocese of Mississippi.

Bishop Polk visited Christ Church May 2, 1840, and the Presbyterian congregation professed the use of their church, which was accepted.

Bishop Leonidas Polk was a graduate of West Point and left the military life for the ministry. He entered the Confederate army and was a major-general when he fell.³

The record shows that Mr. Foster resigned the rectorship of St. Andrews and little more is told about it. They do not tell of the building of the first Christ Church, but it was built and they show the church was consecrated February 12, 1842, by Bishop Otey.⁴

¹ The building now known as the "Yellow Fever House," now the office of the Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Authority.

² Southeast corner of Craft Street and Chulahoma Avenue.

³ The Rt. Rev. Dr. Polk, the "fighting bishop," of Louisiana, was a cousin of U. S. President James K. Polk, and a brother of General Thomas Polk of Holly Springs. Bishop Polk is buried in Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans.

⁴ Though the Episcopal Church in Mississippi was regarded as moderately "high" in its conception of churchly prerogatives and drew many of its members from the wealthier class, it then practiced very little of the colorful ceremony and almost none of the social and doctrinal tolerance for which it is known to-day.

At a second visit, October 22, 1842, Bishop Otey confirmed a class of thirty.⁵

The gifted Dr. J. H. Ingraham, author of *The Prince of the House of David*, died in December 1860 and the vestry met and resolved that they should attend the funeral and wear the "usual badges of mourning for thirty days."

In July 1861, the Rev. J. Thomas Pickett, then rector of Grace Church, Paducah, Ky., was called, but declined. The call was renewed and "in consequence of the occupation of Paducah by

Penitential holy days were more likely to be kept than the celebratory feasts, and Episcopal ministers were known for their strictness. For example, when Tennessee bishop, the Rt. Rev. James H. Otey first arrived in Memphis, November 12, 1852, he rented a hall over an oyster room and across from a dancing school, and preached a sermon entitled "The Tendency of Worldly Amusements." In Holly Springs, Kate Bonner, who was reared in Christ Church, complained about "bullying denunciations from the pulpit," and in 1879 when her seven year old daughter Lilian was baptized, Kate objected to the Rev. Mr. Pickett's telling the child that "we were all, at birth, outcasts and under sentence of wrathful judgment." Shields McIlwaine, *Memphis Down in Dixie* (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1948): 101; *Prodigal Daughter*, 147.

⁵ Not all were attracted to the Episcopal Church, for as Walter Brownlow Posey has noted, "The very nature of the Episcopal service repelled the uneducated, for those who cannot read are not inclined to prove their ignorance. The literary beauty of the prayer book offered no 'springs of refreshment' to a man of meager education or to one unfamiliar with the service." Posey tells of one ignorant man who was heard to say, "Come, let us go and hear that man preach, and his wife jaw back at him." He referred to the responses made by Mrs. Otey, wife of Bishop Otey, who often was the only person in the congregation who made the responses prescribed by the prayer book during her husband's services. *Religious Strife on the Southern Frontier* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1965): 34-35. The Rev. George W. Sill, who held an M. A. degree from Yale and was the author of an early history of Christ Church, stated that from 1839 to 1842 he worshiped in this church "as a casual dropper in," but that he was after "the strictest sect, a Presbyterian." He said that Walter Goodman, president of the Mississippi Central Railroad and senior warden of the parish, often called his attention to the beauties of the service, but Sill wrote that he was "blind to the truth, and thought no good thing could come out of Nazareth" Sill eventually became an Episcopalian and was rector of Christ Church (1849-1856). A memorial tablet in the chancel commemorates his life and ministry. "Christ Church: Its History and Traditions," 2-3.

the Federal army and the dispersion of his parishioners, he was compelled to leave and visited Holly Springs in December, had an interview with the vestry and with the promise of a living of \$1,000 per annum and a rectory accepted the charge of Christ Church parish.¹

The rest of the old record book is largely statistical.

¹ See *Civil War Women*, 19-20.

7.

ARCHITECTURAL STORY OF EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Church Still a Leader Among Beautiful Structures, But Was Originally Even More Handsome and of Pure Gothic Type.—Numerous Alterations.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (August 13, 1931).¹ "Next to the prettiest church, outside of Memphis, I have seen in the Tri-States," was the comment of the Rev. Dr. Charles Blaisdale, of Memphis, rector of Calvary Church, on the occasion of a visit to Christ Church (Episcopal) in Holly Springs, a few years ago.

He was standing just inside of the nave looking toward the west, with the sweep of memorial windows, brass chandeliers, to the chancel and sanctuary, and the memorial window—"Christ in the Garden"—over the altar.²

It is indeed a beautiful church, and to see the interior at its best it should be visited in the afternoon when the mellow rays of the setting sun filter through the windows in soft tones, filling the building with subdued but wonderful color.

A holy calm seems to brood over the church and the impulse is strong to kneel in silent prayer.

Due to the location of the lot the entrance to the church is from the east, while the custom is when possible to have the entrance from the west that worshipers may face the Star of the East.³

This story will deal with the architectural and not the historical part of the church.

My friend, W. W. Anderson, himself an architect of no mean ability, tells me that the edifice was of pure Gothic type until certain alterations, some necessary, were made.⁴

BATTLEMENTS REMOVED

As first built there were battlements around the roof,⁵ but these were removed in the seventies to prevent leaking. Two buttresses also extended on either side of the front steps. These were removed about twenty-five years ago and the present entrance substituted. This entrance is

⁴ Mississippi was much-affected by the "ecclesiastical" movement which swept America and the South during the mid-nineteenth century. This movement, spurred by clergy and architects from England, put forth the idea that Gothic architecture was the only truly "Christian" architecture. Gothic architecture—much neglected and often despised as "Catholic" in the centuries after the Reformation—was suddenly appreciated once more, but at first, only by Episcopalians. Presbyterian and Methodist—even Roman Catholic use of Gothic was rare until a generation after it was embraced by Anglicans, so that if the other churches reached back into history for designs, they favored either the architecture of the Greeks, or that which the English called Norman, or as it is better known, "Romanesque." Christ Church is one of the twelve surviving ante-bellum Episcopal Churches in Mississippi which are important representatives of the Episcopalian Gothic Revival Movement. Others are located in Aberdeen, Canton, Church Hill, Columbus, Hermanville, Mannsdale, Oxford, Raymond, Terry, Vicksburg, and Woodville. St. John's Church, Aberdeen, was designed by Joseph Holt Ingraham, who served that parish just before accepting a call to Holly Springs, where construction of the new Christ Church was already under way. See Elizabeth Claire Welch, "Ecclesiology: Its Influence on the Gothic Revival Episcopal Church in Antebellum Mississippi" (unpublished M. A. thesis, University of Virginia, 1981): 37; *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 155; Eudora Welty, *Country Churchyards* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2000): 23-26, 38-39.

⁵ See drawing in *Southern Tapestry* which shows the original battlements around the roof, p. 53.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² A beautiful photo of church's interior may be seen *Shrines to Tomorrow*, 14.

³ Orientation of churches to face east was required by canon law in the Church of England and continued by custom in colonial America. The practice was revived by some during the liturgical revival of the nineteenth century. See Phoebe B. Stanton, *The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture: An Episode in Taste, 1840-1856* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1968).

prettier, but has no connection with Gothic architecture, I am informed.¹

Another change was in the spire, which replaced the one destroyed by lightning a few years ago. It lacks the height, delicacy and grace of the former spire. With these exceptions the exterior of the church presents the same appearance as when built.

Thomas Finley has a diary kept by his aunt, the late Miss Emma Finley, who died many years ago, in which this entry occurs:

"Sunday [September 19, 1858] we went to hear the first sermon in the new Episcopal Church. It is beautifully frescoed and ornamented both within and without; a fit place in which to sing praises to the Most High. Mr. Ingraham [the Rev. J. H. Ingraham, the rector] is a very pleasant preacher, could not judge of his power from the one sermon. I trust he may do much good."²

About a month later, but without exact date, she records attending the dedication services by Bishop Green, grandfather and namesake of the present Bishop Green.³

The chancel as first built stood further out into the body of the church and was flanked on either side by two large wooden pulpits, that required two or three steps to ascend. The lessons were read from the north pulpit and the gospels from the south.⁴ The sermon, always read in my

¹ The words "Reverence My Sanctuary," from Leviticus 19:30 are inscribed on the front steps, no doubt in remembrance of the unholy invasion of the Church by Federal soldiers during the Civil War.

² *Our Pen Is Time*, 26.

³ Emma Finley was indeed present for the consecration of the new Christ Church, conducted by the diocesan bishop, the Rt. Rev. William Mercer Green, D.D., which we learn from other sources took place on October 7, 1858. By Emma's account he preached from the story of Christ's cleansing of the temple: "Take these things hence, make not my Father's house an house of merchandise," urging the congregation away from all thoughts of "worldly pleasure, earthly possessions, greetings of friends, congratulations and the like, for such" said the bishop "did not belong to the tabernacle of the Most High." *Our Pen Is Time*, 31-32.

⁴ The use of a pulpit and lectern of equal height was characteristic of nineteenth century Episcopal church furnishing. Such an arrangement still prevails in The Falls Church, near Alexandria, Virginia.

boyhood days, was delivered from the north pulpit.⁵

A handsome velvet bound sermon case was the proper gift by relatives or friends to the young clergyman upon his ordination to the priesthood.⁶ These pulpits were removed in the sixties I believe and a lectern, or reading desk, substituted and placed on the north side of the chancel.⁷

The font at first stood to the south of the chancel,⁸ and the choir stood in the rear of the church between the two doors.⁹ It was elevated about four feet from the floor.

⁵ As the "ecclesiological" movement gained strength among Episcopalians in America, the style of church architecture changed to favor recessed chancels in which the choir and clergy would sit. Center aisles became *de rigueur*, in order that lines of white-surpliced clergy and choristers might enter and leave the church in stately, theatrical processions. Virtually every Episcopal Church in America was thus remodeled—the chancels also making room for pipe organs to be added. Christ Church represents an early phase of the movement, with seats for the choir placed to one side at the entrance to the chancel—a practical consideration that was common in smaller parishes which could not field a large company of singers.

⁶ Baptist, Methodist, and even Presbyterian ministers were expected to speak without notes in those days, although careful preparation was expected. Episcopalians, used to reading prayers, could hardly object if the minister did not deliver a memorized address. Meanwhile, Robert B. Alexander confided to his diary (May 22, 1864) that he had attended the Methodist Church in Holly Springs, where he heard the Rev. W. C. Johnson "preach or read a tolerable discourse."

⁷ This is the handsome brass lectern that was moved to the south side of the chancel after a beautifully carved walnut pulpit was given by Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Smith in memory of Miss Dorothy Bradford Williamson and Louise Williamson (Mrs. Louis A.) Anderson. The maker, A. J. Strohmeyer, carved his name into the top step of the pulpit.

⁸ As theological currents in the Episcopal Church evolved, the idea grew that instead of baptizing infants "in the face of the congregation," as the Protestant Reformers had urged, that the ancient symbolism of baptism as the rite of entrance into the Church should be revived. Hence, fonts were relocated to a position near the main entrance of the church. This re-appropriation of pre-reformation tradition coincided with the rising popularity of private baptismal services at which no congregation was present needing to see the action of the service.

⁹ A similar arrangement is said to have prevailed in the Presbyterian Church when it was first built. Such a placement of the choir may still be seen in the

The little reed organ, now used by the Sunday school served until about 1872,¹ when the parish bought the old organ from Calvary Church, Memphis.²

GALLERY BOARDED UP

The gallery over the choir was reserved for colored people, but some years after the war when they had organized churches of their own it was boarded up, and of late years has served for Mrs. L. A. Smith's class of little tots.³

old Presbyterian Church at Washington, Georgia. Many churches used their old galleries to house the choir, but the stairways to the galleries in the Holly Springs churches proved too high for the convenient use of singers and organists, thus necessitating the insertion of choir lofts in all the churches when the use of chorus choirs became popular in the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

¹ This instrument may still be seen in the parish house of Christ Church.

² One Sunday in 1862, as Ella Brackin (Mrs. Fielding) Lucas later recalled, Dr. Pickett found himself confronted by Federal soldiers, who ordered him to refrain from reading the prayers required by his Church on behalf of the Confederate president, or be shot. Witnesses said that he ignored their commands and continued the service. The soldiers withdrew, but the church was taken over for a stable, and Helen Craft Anderson told how the soldiers dismantled the organ and went through the streets, blowing crude tunes upon the pipes. Anderson, "Recollections of Van Dorn's Raid," "Christ Church: Its History and Traditions"; "A Century Ago," 2. As soon as hostilities ended, members went to work raising money for a new instrument. Singers from all the churches banded together to perform an oratorio, which the town turned out to attend. Belle Strickland recorded in her diary, May 9, 1865, that: "We are going to have a cantata here for the Episcopal Church to try and get an organ for the church, and I have to sing in it." *Civil War Women*, 120. Mickle elsewhere (see p. 387) recalled that it was "a sweet-toned instrument." The present organ, a Pilcher, was installed in 1898 and, except for the electrification of the bellows in 1926, is preserved as built. The organ case is oak, and has forty stenciled façade pipes. Retaining its original tracker action, it is one of the oldest instruments of its type still in use in the area. *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 486-87. The centennial of this instrument's continuous service to the parish was celebrated in October 1998, with a month long series of concerts by members of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society.

³ Three galleries, used for segregated seating, survive among the older Holly Springs churches—at First Presbyterian, First Methodist, and Christ Church. However, the latter two are not technically "slave balconies." The gallery at the Methodist Church was not

The sexton rings the bell from this room, and that reminds me that I have frequently served as "pinch hitter" in ringing the bell⁴ and pumping the organ. Once I became so absorbed in Mrs. Lucas' singing that I let the organ go dead.⁵

The present organ is driven by an electric pump, and to my mind that was the most Christ-like work ever done on the building; for I have always felt that on a bitterly cold day a poor shivering negro in organ loft would queer the most fervent prayers we in the warm church could offer.⁶

added until 1869, and the gallery in the Presbyterian Church, although conceived as seating for the congregation's slaves, was not put into use until after the war, due to the delay the hostilities imposed on completing the building. The original 1839 Christ Church building also had a gallery, as does the 1846 Presbyterian Church at Old Hudsonville—the latter accessible only by an outside door on the building's north wall. An 1857 letter from a Catholic priest, the Rev. Thomas Grace, of Memphis, who assisted in the organization of St. Joseph's parish in Holly Springs informs Bishop William Henry Elder of Natchez that when the building was moved from its old location on the site of the present Christ Church to its new location on what is now East College Avenue, that the plaster on the walls and ceiling had to be replaced, and that the servant's gallery was taken down—the Catholics, unlike the Episcopalians, possessed no slaves. The galleries here described are among the few that were located in this part of the country—the number of slaves worshiping in the churches and the number of churches with sufficient numbers of wealthy owners being too small for many to have been constructed. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 155-68.

⁴ Notes in the Christ Church vestry book indicate that \$8 was expended in 1858 for hanging the bell.

⁵ A similar story is told by Chesley Smith: "Recently Wright Greer told me about being at an organ concert at the Episcopal Church one afternoon when pipe organs were still pumped by hand. Before the concert was over, the music grew fainter and fainter. Mr. Gus Smith, later to become my father-in-law, left the church by the front door to go around the building to see what was the matter in the pump room. He was greeted with, 'What y'all white folks doing in there? I've done give out.' So Mr. Gus took over the pumping until the concert was ended." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 7.

⁶ Inez Berryhill Adams recalled that in the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church, this job "was performed by a rotund farmer who pumped while Mrs. T. W. Raymond played the instrument before and after my uncle's voice [the Rev. C. Z. Berryhill] rang out, delivering the weekly sermon." *Class of 1912*, 31. That instrument, installed in the Presbyterian Church in 1885, seems to have been from the Pilcher Organ Co.,

Undoubtedly, the Rev. Peter G. Sears, now of Houston, Texas, did more during his rectorship—1889-1899—to improve and beautify the interior of the church, making it more churchly, than anyone else.

During the period the late Mrs. (Dr.) Dancy gave the money to build the sanctuary; most of the memorial windows were put in then, the brasses put in, the altar cloths (I think), the choir moved to the chancel and the baptismal font to where the choir stood, and the present organ bought. The pews, which before were in a double row in the center and one on each side, were changed to their present arrangement.

In building the sanctuary it was necessary to sacrifice the picture of "The Good Shepherd," to the great distress of rector and people. Dr. Pickett, a former rector, had it done in charcoal or crayon on the wall, unfortunately instead of on canvas which could have been restored. The picture was just above the altar.

the builder responsible for instruments in the town's other old churches and at Mississippi Synodical College. When a new organ was installed in 1920, the old one taken to Florida by Dr. T. W. Raymond, who had it installed in St. Paul's A.M.E. Church in Tampa, where it is still in place. Edward McGowan, who grew up in Holly Springs, recalls pumping the instrument for his aunt Helen Hill Raymond, the church organist. Thomas C. Stewart to R. Milton Winter, June 27, 1994.

8.

OLD RECTORY HOME OF TWO GREAT CHURCHMEN.

**Small Structure That Stood in what is Now Johnson Park Subdivision
A Center of Much Interest up to Twenty-five Years Ago.**

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (April 23, 1931).¹ The old rectory of Christ Church stood in what is now Johnson Park at the intersection of Van Dorn Avenue and Craft Street. It was known in later years as the Jim Delay Place.

The house stood on the lot occupied by the home of Homer Powers. It was bought, with several other small houses nearby about twenty-five years ago by the late Oscar Johnson² and torn down to make room for the development of his park plan.

After Mr. Johnson's death in 1916, the late M. A. Greene bought the Johnson property and laid off this part of the park as a subdivision and sold the lots.

The rectory was a small, inconsequential looking frame house, but it had housed two great churchmen:

The Rev. Dr. J. H. Ingraham, author of *The Prince of the House of David*, was rector of Christ Church and living in the rectory when in December 1860, he accidentally shot himself. He was carried home and died a day or two later. His grave is in Hill Crest Cemetery on the Martin lot.³

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² Oscar Johnson, born at Red Banks, who married the former Irene Walter, daughter of Col. and Mrs. Harvey W. Walter, was prominent in local affairs and in business enterprises in St. Louis. After his death, the immense park was subdivided and the house and other properties sold. In 1934, Johnson's widow, Mrs. Johnson repurchased the house and carried out further restorations on the property. *Southern Tapestry*, 85, 87, 119, 120; see photo, 131.

³ See a poignant account of the incident in the *Holly Springs Southern Herald* (December 1860), reprinted in the *Parish Register of Christ Church 2* (1839-1886).

Bishop William Mercer Green, grandfather of the present Bishop Green, arrived from Jackson, Miss., at midnight and administered the sacrament to the dying man. The late Dr. Frank W. Dancy told me this was one of the most impressive scenes he had ever witnessed.⁴

⁴ The following account of Dr. Ingraham's tragic death was penned by Mrs. Thomas A. Falconer, whose husband was editor of *The Holly Springs South*, "On Saturday the 8th of December [1860], he went, as was his custom, to the church, accompanied by his daughter, in order to arrange the books and any other matters that happened to be out of place, preparatory to services the following day; for his prevailing trait of character was order, in church and out of it. Knowing the excitement that existed everywhere and learning from his family that someone had been prowling about the premises, he went by the gunsmith's and desired him to load and prepare him a pistol left there sometimes last fall by his son who was then in Mobile. The gunsmith gave him the pistol wrapped up in a paper, and, arriving at the Vestry room of the church, he placed it on a table until he should leave for home. After making the desired arrangements in the church, he was preparing to leave and his daughter was standing on the steps of the Vestry door, waiting for him; when he reached out his hand to get the pistol, and getting hold of the paper and not the pistol, it slipped through and fell on the floor, shooting him and wounding him fatally. For a week he lingered at home, but on Monday, a week after the accident, all hope was given over. He then asked to see his parishioners and friends. The entire day was spent in talking to them. As they would leave, he took each by the hand and exhorted them to love one another and to prepare to meet the God to whom he was now hastening. As the evening advanced, he seemed desirous for the last rite for the soul. Bishop Green and Bishop Otey had been telegrammed. Bishop Green arrived during the day and Bishop Otey reached his bedside that same evening. His joy seemed complete and full to overflowing. At 2 o'clock in the still hour of night, when the outer world was wrapped in sleep, the stars alone keeping watch, a little band of Christians were kneeling at his bedside while Bishop Otey administered communion. As he grew weaker, he finally said, 'Gloria in Excel-sis,' and died." His monument in Hill Crest Cemetery

The Rev. J. T. Pickett, then a young widower, succeeded Dr. Ingraham, coming during the first year of the War of the Sixties. He was rector of an Episcopal Church in Paducah, Ky., and refugee with most of his congregation when the Federals captured that city.

He accepted a call to Christ Church at the munificent salary of \$1,000 a year. Preachers were sadly underpaid in those days. Dr. Pickett loved Holly Springs and later refused a call to a large Louisville church at \$5,000 a year—big pay then.

He not only preached splendid sermons but was the best pulpit reader I ever heard. He recognized that the Bible throughout is couched in dramatic language, and the rituals of the Episcopal Church so rich and that they require dramatic treatment and he was wonderfully gifted.

Dr. Pickett was regarded as very high church when he first came, and on Easter Day when he had the church decorated with flowers one good lady would not stay to service with the church so "decorated." Later she was active in such work.¹

I suspect that the parish did not own the rectory, for they gave it up in a year or two and rectors lived in a "hired house" until the present rectory was built in 1884.²

was erected by his successor, the Rev. James T. Pickett, D.D. See *It Happened Here*, 34-36; Elmo Howell, "Christ Church and Joseph Holt Ingraham," *Mississippi Home-Places*, 94-95.

¹ Such activities were rather new and were restricted to Episcopal or Roman Catholic Churches. On April 9, 1868, Belle Strickland recorded in her diary that "Sunday is Easter, and I am going to the Catholic Church in the morning, and maybe to the Episcopal in the evening. I have never been to the Catholic Church at all, and have never been to the other on Easter. The ladies always decorate the churches very prettily, and I want to go very much." Even a generation later, elaborate decorations do not seem to have become the rule in Holly Springs, as may be inferred from this newspaper comment: "Easter Day was generally observed at the churches. Father Althoff [Roman Catholic] having been absent Palm Sunday, the ceremony of blessing the palms was combined with the Easter service....At Christ Church, Rev. P. G. Sears, rector, the cross, altar, font, reading desk and chancel rail were draped in heavy mourning Good Friday, but removed Saturday for Easter." *Holly Springs South* (April 2, 1891). See *Civil War Women*, 167-68.

² A story is told in Holly Springs that the lot on which the present Christ Church rectory stands, was

My first recollections of anything are of the old rectory, my family having taken the house and Dr. Pickett living with us, and his influence on all of us was as a benediction.³ My maternal grandfather, Dabney Minor, died there [1862].

From what people tell me he was a man of fine character who endeavored to live his religion. In his life and politics he was that strange anomaly, especially in that day, an aristocrat-democrat—in short his life was based on children's axiom "pretty is as pretty does."

The war was on and it was here that I first recollect seeing a Yankee soldier, a cavalryman, who rode up to the gate. I took a shot at him with my toy spring gun, and he smiled good naturedly. He was said to belong to the Kansas Jayhawkers.

One of our negroes, Stepney Mickle,⁴ buried \$100 in silver in the lot where Homer Powers lives, and could never find it again. Get your fork and dig, Homer.

acquired by the parish due to its use as a circus-grounds. By one account, an elephant inserted its trunk through an open window into the church during a service, prompting the vestry to purchase the land and remove the circus from its proximity to God's house.

³ Unmarried clergymen often made their home with a family, or invited a family to reside with them in the rectory or manse—the custom dating from Puritan times when it was unlawful for an unmarried adult to reside alone. As late as the 1946, the Rev. William B. Bobo, then a bachelor, invited Charles and Pauline Ames, newlyweds, to share the Holly Springs Presbyterian manse with him.

⁴ Blacks had no surnames prior to emancipation, and as a casual inspection of a list of the names of pioneer white settlers will show, freed slaves regularly took the names of their former owners. In many cases, only the descendants of former slaves perpetuate old surnames in the county.

9.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COST WAS \$21,196.44.

This Figure Did Not Include Window Glass, According to Reminiscent Story Printed by Capt. Mattison in *The South*—25 Years Ago.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (February 2, 1928). In *The Holly Springs South* of February 19, 1903, the editor the late Capt. J. B. Mattison, gives some interesting data in regard to the construction of the Presbyterian Church¹ as follows:

"We have from our old papers an interesting account rendered by John C. Walker,² as treasurer, to the trustees of the Presbyterian Church, of the items of cost of the present building, which was commenced several years before the war and closed several years after, the latest date it contains is in 1869.

"The first item gives the price paid for the building site, which cost \$2,500. It contained a two-story frame building, used as offices of the Mississippi Central R. R., and owned by A. J. McConnico, and is now the residence of Dr. S. C. Gholson. The moving of the house from the site cost \$350.³

"Then follows bill of brick and castings, amounting to over \$6,000. Hauling lumber from mill, one of several items, cost \$666.84, costing nearly as much as the lumber which was \$700.

"It took 35,000 shingles to cover the building at a cost of \$192, indicating that shingles for a new roof could be supplied for \$75 now.

"Every man engaged on the building was mentioned to the humblest slave, and the price paid per day.

"The foreman of the brick work was paid \$3.50, and brick layers \$2 to \$3 per day.

"Nearly every family in the congregation is represented in the labor of his slaves. The account reads: Watkins' [Watson's?] Joe, 134 ½ days, \$297.43; Govan's Jim, 87 days; Chalmers' George; Polk's Nelson; Dr. Litchfield's boys, 60 ½ days; Clapp's boy; Hanson's boy; McConnico's Andrew, and so on, pages of like entries, the masters, of course, collecting the money.⁴

"An interesting feature of the credit side of the account was the proceeds of entertainments given to raise money to carry on the work. Proceeds of a concert October 1860, \$155.60; of a tableau⁵ \$316; of Christmas tree \$455.¹ Truly those were flush times.

¹ See also *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 148-53; 195-204.

² John C. Walker and his wife Janette Thomson made their home with her parents Lewis and Sarah Merrill Thomson, in the two-story Federal style house now known as "Herndon" that stands in the center of the block on Falconer Avenue between Maury and Walthall Streets. Mr. Mickle elsewhere states that these records were kept while Mr. Walker's business partner, Alexander Calvin McEwen, was treasurer of the Presbyterian Church (see p. 182).

³ This house, still known as "the Mississippi Central Railroad Office," stands at 155 West Gholson Avenue, and is the home of Mrs. Rose Fitch. After oxen had pulled the two-story frame structure down the street on logs to its present site it was found that the house could not be turned around, and so the former front became the back at the current location.

⁴ Several of the owners listed were, in fact, members of Christ Church. The laborers would be paid for their work, it being the prerogative of the master to collect the wages. It has been observed that the antebellum architecture of Holly Springs stands as a monument to the skill of the city's black craftsmen.

⁵ Tableaux were a popular means of raising money. Cordelia Scales of Hudsonville wrote a friend, November 24, 1861, that "We are going to have a grand exhibition Christmas for the benefit of the soldiers....Tableaux, choruses, dialogues and private theatricals." Hamilton, 150. Similarly, on December 28, 1864, Cora Watson told of visitors who came from a tableau being rehearsed in Christ Church to raise money for poor soldiers wives: "Lida and Carrie came by from a rehearsal of the tableau which are to be enacted on Friday night. The girls have a great deal of fun meeting to rehearse—the soldiers and officers about town being always at the tableau rooms....Mrs.

"Rev. Henry Paine raised \$2,002 on a trip north,² and \$500 from S. Carson. The old church (now the J. A. Miller building) is credited with \$5,375, and the total cost of building not including the window glass, was \$21,196.44."

Carrington Mason is directress, and Lida amused us very much by giving an account of the way Mrs. Mason wanted the Peri at the gate of Heaven represented. Lou Hamner was the Peri, and Mrs. Mason insisted on sending down and having the little wooden gate brought up from the Presbyterian church to stand for the gate of Heaven, before which Lou Hamner was to be disconsolately kneeling, when she could very easily have opened it and gone in. Lida told her that would never do, that everybody would laugh at it; and it didn't suit her anyway, for she was too much of an Episcopalian to believe the Presbyterian church gate was the gate of Heaven. So they have decided to change it in such a way as to make it a very pretty scene. Mr. John C. Walker is to be doorkeeper, the price of admittance is \$5.00 in Confederate money, \$1.00 in greenbacks, or .50 in silver, and the proceeds to go to the assistance of poor soldiers' wives in the county. Mr. Pickett is to call out the scenes. I told Mrs. Smith that she must caution him to be careful and not call 'A scene from *The Bride of Lameroon*,' 'A scene from the bride of the lamb in the moon,' as Dr. Wilkerson did in our tableaux at Somerville." *Civil War Women*, 66-67.

¹ Because of the lingering influence of Puritanism with its scruples against observing any other day than that one which is commanded in the New Testament, namely the Lord's Day, services were generally not held in the churches, unless Christmas Eve or Christmas Day happened to fall on Sunday. (The same disregard was also shown by most toward Holy Week, Good Friday, and Easter.) In Holly Springs, only Roman Catholics and Episcopalians kept Christmas with services in the church, although some such as the Presbyterians were beginning to relax old strictures against "unbiblical" holy days. Indeed, this record shows that the local Presbyterians raised \$455 for their new church, selling tickets to the lighting of a Christmas tree—disregarding also a prohibition of their denomination against raising money through sales and festivities, instead of through "consecrated giving." *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 153.

²"Old School" Presbyterians in the North had been somewhat sympathetic to the Southern cause. After the war, leaders in these churches—most notably Cyrus McCormick, a Virginian who had moved to Chicago to manufacture his reaper. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 195.

10.

HILL CREST IS MOST APPROPRIATELY NAMED.

Famous Holly Springs Cemetery, Dating Back to 1840,
Is the Last Place of Numerous Heroes and Famous Persons.

*"Just beyond the hill crest
Lie the Plains of Peace."*

HOLLY SPRINGS (October 30, 1930).¹ The name "Hill Crest" for the cemetery was suggested by Mrs. W. A. Anderson, July 14, 1905. It was 8 o'clock in the evening and a group of friends were awaiting the arrival at the cemetery of the funeral cortège of Hindman Doxey, uncle of Wall and Hindman Doxey, which had been delayed to await the coming of a brother on the evening train.

The group stood on the crest of a hill and as the moonlight flooded the valley and hills, poetry came to Mrs. Anderson's mind: "The cemetery should be called 'Hill Crest,'" she said to C. H. Curd, then editor of *The Reporter*. He concurred in the suggestion and said he would advocate it and it was officially adopted shortly afterward.

"God's Acre," in which rest the dust so sacred to many of us, went for the first sixty years without a name. In my earliest recollection it was called "the graveyard" and later "the cemetery."²

CHANGE IN CUSTOM

Funeral customs have changed in my time, the proverbial six feet of earth, with which we are all supposed to be endowed, was no exaggeration in my earlier days, the funeral director had to be pulled out of the grave when he had finished his work.

The pallbearers always filled the grave, a custom born of respect and affection, not from economy, for in the earlier days there was plenty of help. But none of the relatives or closest

friends might perform the last offices, from preparing the body for burial until "earth to earth" had been said.

Funerals were stately functions in those days, the hearse horses were trained to a slow march and I can see in memory the stately swing of the procession around a corner.³

No verdure lined the grave as now to soften the sound of falling earth, but the clods "rattled on the coffin." By the way casket is a comparatively modern term, it was a coffin in the earlier days. Modern tendencies have been toward softening the blow, even in the material functions of the last rites.

I have never heard the Rev. J. T. Pickett's equal in reading the service for the burial of the dead. In the committal prayer he was dramatic.

DATES BACK TO 1840

The older part of the cemetery was deeded to the city by R. H. Byrne, February 28, 1845. Previous to this deed the property, which is known as Lots 350-51, had been owned among other by Joseph Caruthers, James Greer and wife, Leroy and John Sims, the earliest transfer being from E. S. Tappan. To A. R. Govan October 30, 1840.

The newer part of the cemetery was transferred to the city by the late Dr. John S. Burton, May 9, 1904. It had been used for years as a baseball park, and it is a coincidence that the first burial was that of a man who died from a blow from a baseball bat.

¹ This article was reprinted in abridged form in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (November 20, 1930).

² See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 332.

³ Chesley Smith remembered a black hearse "with glass paneled sides that was pulled by two black horses." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 25.

John D. Martin, Sr., was the first purchaser of a cemetery lot—May 16, 1845.¹ Mr. Martin wealth planter whose plantations lay largely on both sides of the Tallahatchie River in Marshall and Lafayette counties. He either sold or gave part of the land for the University of Mississippi.

He made his home here and it crowned one of the most magnificent suburban sites around Holly Springs—the panoramic sweep is arresting. The house was destroyed during the war. It was located southwest of the city, about half mile out on the old Marianna Road.²

Note—"The war" in my stories means the War of the Sixties, as it affected Holly Springs more profoundly than all the rest combined.³

TERRACING WORK DONE

Mrs. John D. Martin was noted for her shrubs and flowers even in that day when Holly Springs had won the title of "City of Flowers." Considerable landscaping was done and the terraces down the long reach of the hill are still visible.⁴

Other early purchasers were Gordentia Waite, clerk of one of the courts in antebellum days. He was an uncle of Waite McClain, now of Jackson, Tenn., and his bachelor quarters are now the pressroom of *The South Reporter*.⁵

¹ Earlier burials were made there—some say the spot was in use by the Indians—but records were not kept in the earlier days. See notes below concerning the earliest headstones that may be seen to-day.

² To-day's Peyton Road.

³ Even through Mr. Mickle was briefly a correspondent for *The Memphis Commercial Appeal* during the Spanish American War and lived through the First World War, he makes almost no mention of either in his historical columns.

⁴ Gaines M. Foster notes, Southerners manifested such tremendous pride in their "cities of the dead" that one Northerner reported that the first question you are asked on entering a southern city is: "Have you been to the cemetery?" *Ghosts of the Confederacy*, 39-40. Books and tourist brochures for Holly Springs have always urged pilgrims to visit Hill Crest Cemetery, which, because of the generals buried there, one author proclaimed "the Little Arlington of the South." *It Happened Here*, 101-104. See also Olga Reed Pruitt, "Hill Crest Cemetery," *Holly Springs South Reporter* (May 8, 1958).

⁵ Mr. Mickle refers to the small building at the rear of the Collier Carlton law office on South Market Street.

Francis Shumake, who probably built the old R. Shumacker home on College Ave.

Roger Barton, perhaps the most noted criminal lawyer of his day, and father of Mrs. Rosa B. Tyler, Mrs. J. C. Totten, Sr., now occupies the old Barton Home.

Lucy Alderson, was another. Mr. Alderson was an antebellum banker, who lived in the old Dr. Malone house on West College Avenue.⁶ Mrs. W. H. Jones is his grandniece.

J. W. Clapp, a prominent attorney, who moved to Memphis after the war, father of Lucas Clapp, one of the two mayors Holly Springs has contributed to Memphis.

Maj. William M. Strickland,⁷ public-spirited attorney, whose children, Mrs. Belle Bates, Mrs.

⁶ Alderson Street, which runs beside the site of the old Alderson home at the southwest corner of its junction with College Avenue, honors the memory of its owner, James C. Alderson, chancery clerk (1842) and the longtime president of the Northern Bank of Mississippi. After James Alderson's death, his widow, Lucy married Dr. T. J. Malone of Waterford, and they lived in the house. It was restored by the Holly Springs Garden Club in the 1930s and for some years served as the club's headquarters. The historic Malone house, a masterpiece of Greek Revival architecture, was torn down in the 1980s to be replaced by a metal-frame commercial structure. Hamilton, 129; *Southern Tapestry*, 160; see photo, Miller-Smith, 39.

⁷ William Matthew Strickland was one of the county's early settlers, coming first to Chulahoma on the western edge, where he worked in his brother's store. He later moved to Holly Springs and read law under John William Clark Watson and Judge James F. Trotter. Admitted to the local bar, he formed a partnership with Judge Jeremiah W. Clapp in 1849 and later with James T. and Arthur Fant. In that year, Henry Craft, another of the town's attorneys wrote of Strickland in his diary: "He has the principles and feelings of a gentleman and is one of those in whose discretion and honor I feel perfect confidence...I like him very much because he is a high minded, right hearted gentleman." He died in 1908, and is buried in the Strickland plot in Hill Crest. Strickland's first wife was the former Martha Mildred Thomson, and after her death in 1863, he later married the former Jane Leak, daughter of Col. Francis Terry Leak, a large planter in the Salem community, the vicinity's largest landholder. *Memoirs of Mississippi*, 2:861, *Civil War Women*, x, xi, xvii; *Southern Tapestry*, 32, 62, 65. Belle Strickland refers to her father's landscaping of his lot in the cemetery, "Wednesday, April 15th 1868: Yesterday evening Bettie McCarroll and I went up to town, and then to the graveyard. Papa has had his lot

Gerard Badow and Frank Strickland, still live here.¹

EARLIEST TOMBSTONE

The earliest tombstone records the birth and death of Sarah Anne, wife of W. F. Mason (1819-1844).² In the absence of a cemetery the earlier settlers must have used their gardens—as well the custom on many plantations. I have heard that seven bodies were removed from the

fixed, and it is as pretty as any there at all." *Civil War Women*, 171.

¹ Belle Strickland Bates kept a diary during the Civil War, cited in these pages, See *Civil War Women*, xiv, 1, 216-17. She was an early historian of the First Baptist Church. Perle Strickland Badow and her brother Frank lived in the old family home, "Strickland Place," until it was sold in the late 1940s to become St. Joseph's School, of the town's Roman Catholic parish. See photos in Miller-Smith, 33, 100; and *Civil War Women*, x, 217-222.

² Victorians made a fetish of their mourning customs, and lavished more attention on cemetery properties than is customary to-day. Elaborate tombstones and landscaping were employed. Indeed, as Gaines M. Foster remarked, Southerners manifested such tremendous pride in their "cities of the dead" that one Northerner reported that the first question you are asked on entering a southern city is: "Have you been to the cemetery?" *Ghosts of the Confederacy*, 39-40. The older part of the cemetery fronting on to-day's South Center Street—the old road South—was deeded by R. H. Byrne, February 23, 1845, but at least four markers may be seen dating to 1838. Several older tombstones have been noted in a survey of Hill Crest Cemetery performed by Bobby Mitchell and others. These are the graves of Susan Davis, wife of E. N. Davis, died March 25, 1838; Richard Harbert Epps, son of Wyatt and Mary T. Epps, died June 17, 1838; David L. Davis, son of E. N. Davis, died September 3, 1838; and Susan Thomas, died November 19, 1838. See Bill Gurney, Bobby Mitchell, and David Pryor, *Cemeteries of Marshall County, Mississippi* (Ripley: Old Timer Press, 1983): 35, 38, 39. As the town grew additional sections were added until now the cemetery embraces thirty-five acres. In the years after the Civil War elaborate tombstones and elegant iron fences were erected, and Holly Springs boasted its own skilled artisan in marble, Adam Preher, whose monuments are now recognized as fine sculpture in their own right. Mr. Preher died in 1933 at the age of sixty-seven. He lived in the house called "Belvedere" at the corner of North Randolph Street and Salem Avenue, where he used old marbles as paving stones for the yard. New residents who recently purchased the home, and not realizing that a monument maker once lived there, were surprised to find the artful stones all carved with lilies and climbing roses. See *Civil War Women*, 171; *Holly Springs South Reporter* (April 13, 2000).

square of ground of the old John C. Walker residence, later known as the Mossom Place.³

William S. Randolph, who founded Holly Springs in 1836, is not buried here, as he was living in Panola County at the time of his death. His granddaughter, Mrs. D. B. Wright, gives me this information. Several of his descendants rest here.

Tobe Nolden, the sexton, found for me the only tablet bearing the name of Randolph-Dicey, wife of J. C. Randolph (1796-1849).

Two great epochs of misfortune in the history of Holly Springs, the Civil War of the Sixties and the yellow fever of 1878, are represented by graves of men and women of note as well as those of the unknown dead.

The hill in the southeastern part was strewn with the graves of the Confederate dead, the graves are not now visible as time and the elements have leveled them.⁴

FIRST CONFEDERATE MONUMENT

On the brow of the hill stands the first Confederate monument erected here,⁵ a modest shaft,

³ This is the house, located at 255 E. Falconer Avenue, now known as "Herdon."

⁴ Most of the Confederates who died during the war and are buried in the Holly Springs cemetery are soldiers who died in the numerous hospitals that were operated here.

⁵ Many unknown Confederate soldiers are buried in the cemetery at Holly Springs—most, it would seem, casualties from Shiloh brought here for treatment in the hospitals. According to an early article about the Confederate graves in Hill Crest, "This county has a Confederate cemetery well enclosed and neatly kept by the authorities of Holly Springs, and at the expense of the city. In it are buried three hundred or more Confederate soldiers. Some of these fell in the skirmishes in and around Holly Springs and some died in the Confederate Hospital there. The people of Holly Springs and the best citizens of Marshall county generally, have shown a spirit of intelligent patriotism and general devotion to duty in caring for the graves of these honored dead. To their memory the citizens of Holly Springs have erected a worthy monument." R. W. Jones, "Confederate Cemeteries and Monuments in Mississippi," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society* 8 (1904): 101-102. Based on this article the Kitt Mott camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans obtained permission to erect headstones for unknown Confederate soldiers in the southeast part of Hill Crest Cemetery. Ninety monuments bearing the inscription

yet an artist must have carved it, so soft and perfect are the folds of the flag.¹

It was here Memorial Day exercises have been always held, and many of them were most impressive, especially in the earlier years. Town and county were full of ex-Confederate soldiers then, with whom the observance of Memorial Day was almost a sacrament.²

The Confederate monument in the upper part of the cemetery was erected several years later except the shaft, which for lack of funds was not added until twenty-five years ago.³

"Unknown Confederate Soldier" were brought from the Bethany Cemetery at Bryce's Crossroads National Military Park, the names of the soldiers so-designated having been found and the markers rendered redundant after new ones bearing the proper names had been erected. Bobby Mitchell to R. Milton Winter, August 20, 2002.

¹ Some have noted the absence of a statue of a Confederate soldier on the grounds of the Marshall County Courthouse, such as the one which looks down upon South Lamar Avenue from the Town Square in Oxford. Southern historian Gaines M. Foster explains that the earliest custom was to place Confederate memorial monuments in cemeteries, and that it was only later that the location shifted to the courthouse lawns, where statues of mournful soldiers are seen at locations all across Mississippi. See *Ghosts of the Confederacy: Defeat, the Lost Cause, and the Emergence of the New South, 1865-1913* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987).

² The custom of decorating Civil War soldiers' graves probably began as individuals placed flowers at the tombs of loved ones lost in the war, and while several communities claim to have begun Confederate Memorial Day, many believe it to have originated in Columbus, Mississippi, April 26, 1866, at the town's Friendship Cemetery. The ritual was always held in the spring, with dates generally later in the upper South, in order that an ample supply of flowers would be available. Belle Strickland gives a full description of Holly Springs Memorial Day exercises, April 27, 1868: "Saturday was the day appointed to decorate the soldiers' graves, and after copying my composition I went to work. I made several wreaths....At four o'clock I went to the graveyard, and disposed of my flowers very quickly. When I got up on the hill, and saw the flowers reflected in the setting sun, the place looked perfectly radiant. I hardly ever saw anything so beautiful." See *Civil War Women*, 175-82.

³ Mr. Mickle's statements about the dates of the two Confederate monuments need clarification. The Marshall County Monument Association purchased a lot in the center of the cemetery (the "upper part" of the cemetery to which Mr. Mickle refers) for the Confederate Monument on April 29, 1874, which bears a

I have not space to mention all of the gallant dead, who sleep there, but will mention a few officers whose names I recall. Major Gen. Edward Cary Walthall; Major Gen. Daniel Govan, Gen. W. S. Featherston, Gen. Nelms,⁴ Gen. Sam Benton, Gen. A. M. West.

Col. Kit Mott, Col. Tom Harris, Col. H. W. Walter, Col. George B. Myers, Col. John McGuirk, Col. A. J. Wooten.

Maj. George M. Govan, Maj. Andrew Govan, Maj. William M. Strickland, Maj. Addison Craft, Maj. A. J. Wooten, Maj. Belton Mickle, Maj. Brodie S. Crump, Capt. Ed Crump, Capt. James T. Fant, Capt. George M. Buchanan.

YELLOW FEVER HEROES

Two monuments commemorate the groups who made the supreme sacrifice in the yellow fever of 1878 and first place deservedly belongs to the monument to the Roman Catholic sisters and priest, Father Oberti.

The latter, noble priest that he was, was bound by his vows to stay, but the sisters belonged to a teaching order and could have gone without prejudice. There were nearly twenty of them all stayed and these gave their lives, all dying between September 22 and October 11: Sister Stanislas, Sister Stella, Sister Margaretia, Sister Corinthia, Sister Victoria, and Sister Lau-

date of 1876 inscribed on the stone. The shaft on the top was added by the Edward Cary Walthall Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies on May 17, 1901, with Major Addison Craft making the principal address. This monument was for the Marshall County Confederate Dead. In 1890, the monument on the hill in the southeast corner of the cemetery was erected for Confederate Dead, from other places, and the local Sons of Confederate Veterans put up ninety markers for unknown Confederate Soldiers to designate the area in which they lie. See photo *Southern Tapestry*, 68. An accurate list of generals buried in the cemetery is given there. Those from the Civil War are Major General Edward Cary Walthall, Brigadier General Samuel Benton, Brigadier General Daniel Chevillette Govan, and Brigadier General Winfield Scott Featherston—as well as two Brigadier Generals in the Mississippi Militia—Christopher Mott and Absalom Madden West. Two other militia generals of an earlier period are also interred at Hill Crest—Alexander B. Bradford and Thomas G. Polk.

⁴ Charles G. Nelms was a Holly Springs attorney. He was killed at Shiloh.

rentia. All creeds and races represented in Holly Springs contributed to the erection of this monument.¹

The press monument, a granite shaft, was erected by the Mississippi Press Association to its dead, in the epidemic and bears the names of W. J. L. Holland, and Maj. Kinloch Falconer of Holly Springs, the former editor of *The Reporter* and head of the relief committee, and the second Secretary of State and former editor of *The Reporter*.

I regret that I cannot give the places of residence of the others, but their names on the monument are: W. J. Adams, O. V. Shearer, Singleton Garrett and J. P. Allen. Adams belongs to a family of newspapermen, his father founding *The Clarion*, which was subsequently moved to Jackson and later consolidated with *The State Ledger* forming *The Clarion-Ledger*.

There is not room for the many heroes of that dark hour, but these were outstanding: Col. H. W. Walter and his sons Frank, Avant and Jimmie;² and Selden and Glenn Fant. Nearly four hundred died with the fever and the cemetery had the appearance of a plowed field.

AUTHORS' BODIES REST THERE

The Rev. Joseph. H. Ingraham's name is more widely known than any who sleep there. He was author of *The Prince of the House of David*, *The Pillar of Fire* and other noted books. They have been read wherever the English language is spoken, and have been translated into several languages. He was rector of Christ Church and died in 1860.

There, too, rests Sherwood Bonner, whose works were widely read.

In the portion of the cemetery devoted to the colored dead sleep many who were of sterling worth, true always to their trust, friends indeed in war and pestilence.³

¹ See photo, Miller-Smith, 112; *Southern Tapestries*, 81.

² Although among the wealthiest men in town, the tiny marble stones which mark the graves of Colonel Walter and his sons at the western fence of Hill Crest Cemetery bear mute testimony to the suddenness and devastation that surrounded their deaths.

³ As with most older towns in the South with cemeteries established before 1890, when so-called

In Henry Polk's⁴ lot lies Sallie Polk, who belonged to Gen. Thomas Polk, brother of the soldier bishop. She was born in 1773, and hence was born a British subject. She died in 1863, and had my nurse taken me to her bedside and we had touched hands we would have spanned the period of existence of the United States.⁵

One of the queerest *eulogium* I have ever heard of was that over Friday Visor, a colored man. I got it from old Bob McCraven on his return from the cemetery, and sent it to the *New York Sun* and it was copied in a London paper.

Friday had been found dead in bed and an inquest was held. As he belonged to no church or society to take charge, the sheriff called for six volunteers to bury him. The body was lowered into the grave and as they were about to fill it someone suggested that they not bury him like an animal, without any word, and appealed to Bob. He approached the grave and said: "Friday Visor, you is gone; we hopes you is better off than we 'spects you is."

Alas and Alack! It may be that this may be fittingly said over some of us who consider ourselves poor Friday's betters.⁶

"Jim Crow" laws were passed enforcing the separation of the races in all aspects of life and death, burials in Hill Crest are not and have never been segregated.

⁴ A well-known member of the black community, Henry Polk was a shoemaker, and at the time of his death, the only Negro member of Christ Episcopal Church. He had worshiped there as a slave-member, in the family of General Thomas Polk. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 73. There is no marker for his grave in Hill Crest Cemetery.

⁵ Sally Polk had been a slave. Her gravestone reads: Sallie Polk, died 1863, aged 90 years.

⁶ See also *It Happened Here*, 101-104.

11.

MRS. HELEN ANDERSON DIES IN 85TH YEAR.

**Her Active Career Linked With Holly Springs Since the Early Days,
She Became a Recognized Authority on Incidents of Local History.**

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (December 31, 1931). Mrs. Helen Craft Anderson, widow of W. A. Anderson, died at her home on Chulahoma Avenue Sunday night at 9:45 o'clock, after an illness of about two weeks.

Funeral services were held from the Presbyterian Church Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock, conducted by her pastor, the Rev. Dr. George L. Bitzer, assisted by the Rev. N. J. Golding.

Pallbearers were selected from friends, some of them lifelong, and the officers of the church. They were:

Active Pallbearers—Howard Jones, Hindman Doxey, Harvey McCrosky, Homer Powers, Vada Cochran, Lytle Rather, Robert Dancy and C. C. Stephenson, Sr.

Elders—C. T. Ames,¹ D. M. Featherston, Dr. R. F. Cooper, John T. Wade, Thomas Finley, J. M. Consley, E. W. Francisco, Sr.

Deacons—Dr. N. G. Gholson, H. H. Orr, E. W. Francisco, Jr., Raymond Anderson.

Honorary Pallbearers: E. M. Smith, E. D. Smith, E. C. Rogers, H. S. Dancy, J. I. Owen, S.

W. Mullins, C. H. Curd, Sr., L. H. Dancy, Sr., F. C. Mattison, Gerard Badow, L. G. Fant, Sr., W. H. Jones, H. H. Rather, John M. Mickle, R. A. Tyson, Oliver T. Robinson, W. B. Bradberry, J. B. Warren, Frank L. Strickland.

SUGGESTED CEMETERY NAME

Burial was by the side of her husband in Hill Crest Cemetery. It was Mrs. Anderson who suggested the name Hill Crest for the cemetery in 1905, from the lines:

*"Just beyond the hill crest
Lie the Plains of Peace."*

Mrs. Anderson was the last of her immediate family. She was a daughter of Hugh Craft and Elizabeth Collier who came from Georgia to Holly Springs while the town was still young, and the family history has since been prominently interwoven with that of the city in church and society.

She was a sister of Judge Henry Craft² of Memphis, Heber Craft of McComb, Miss., and Maj. Addison Craft of Holly Springs. The late Henry C. Fort, long a leading banker in Holly Springs, was her nephew.

Mrs. Anderson is survived by three nieces in Holly Springs; Mrs. Fannie Fort Daniel and Misses Lizzie and Cornelia Craft; and several great nephews and nieces, Fort Daniel, Miss

¹ C. T. Ames, who is credited for pioneering efforts to end the massive soil erosion brought about by poor farming methods in the county, came to Holly Springs in 1906 as director of the Experiment Station. When asked to become a Sunday school teacher in the Presbyterian Church, he agreed with the condition that he be permitted to say something good about hairy vetch at least once each Sunday! The family originally lived in a house built on West Street where the Holy Family School is now located. It was originally constructed in 1870 as a residence for Turner Lane and later used briefly as the State Normal School for Negroes (1872). See information and photos in *It Happened Here*, 92-93; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 331-32; Miller-Smith, 47; *Southern Tapestry*, 78.

² Born and reared in Holly Springs—he was a son of pioneer settlers Hugh and Elizabeth Collier Craft, Henry Craft was educated at Oglethorpe College in Georgia and Princeton. After practicing law in the city for some years, he found his way to the city, where he spent the remainder of his life. His diary is an important source of historical information about Holly Springs. See *Southern Tapestry*, 31.

Lucy Hill Daniel, Mrs. E. B. Booker, Mrs. Harris Gholson of Holly Springs.

Mrs. James Driver, John Craft and the children of the late Henry Craft of Memphis; Robert W. Fort of Dallas, Texas, Mrs. Richard Hawkins of Yazoo City and Heber Craft of Jackson, Miss.

Relatives and friends from out of town who attended the funeral included: Mrs. James Driver, Mrs. John Craft and brother, Mr. Lawhorne, Mrs. John Lea, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Anderson and family, Mrs. Gelon Craft and Mrs. Napoleon Grosvenor of Memphis.

Mrs. Egbert Jones, Mrs. E. R. Jones, and Mr. and Mrs. Treadwell Aldrich of Michigan City.

BORN HERE, AUGUST 5, 1847

Mrs. Anderson was born in Holly Springs August 5, 1847; and was married December 22, 1880, to W. Albert Anderson, a Confederate veteran and noted educator.

Prior to her marriage she taught in Huntsville, Ala., in the Holly Springs city school and later in M. S. College.

A lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church, both of the denomination and local congregation, she served both with an intense devotion in the varied church activities and in attendance on services.

In spite of the infirmity of years she was in her pew the Sunday before she was taken ill. She was organist for many years, and for thirty-three years taught "Our Dewdrops," a class of little ones.

Mrs. Anderson possessed strong intellectual facilities, and was a woman of deep culture. She was a contemporary and the closest friend in Holly Springs of the late Sherwood Bonner, the noted Southern authoress.

She was a member of the various literary clubs that were organized here in her time, notably the Thursday Club, of which she was a member from its inception, serving at times as president and on important committees. She was also a member of the Woman's Club.

Mrs. Anderson was an authority on the history of Holly Springs—people and events. Besides much other data she possessed the two best scrapbooks in the city, which were in constant demand by those doing research work in local history.

She did not live entirely in the past, however, but to the last took a lively interest in the present, both in matters of worldwide import or of local interest and in the life of the young.

In the death of Mrs. Anderson the community has suffered a great loss. It is fitting that she should rest in Hill Crest amid the historic dead whom she knew and honored and by whom she was honored in life.

I cannot allow the opportunity to pass of expressing my sense of personal loss in the death of Mrs. Helen Anderson who I loved as a friend, and who I often consulted in writing any stories of historic Holly Springs for *The South Reporter*.

12.

BAPTISTS DEDICATE THIRD CHURCH BUILDING.

The Last Note Burned—Large Crowd in Attendance.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (January 28, 1937). The members of the Holly Springs Baptist Church formally dedicated their \$50,000 church Sunday morning with the "burning of the last note" by Dr. W. T. Lowery of Clinton, a former pastor, who preached the dedication sermon.¹

The house was built during the pastorate of the Rev. E. L. Wesson, by placing a heavy bond issue on it, but these bonds have been paid, and the church has no outstanding debts. The Rev. R. A. Morris, who has been the pastor for nearly ten years, led the dedicatory program, followed by Dr. Ira Seale,² chairman of the Board of Deacons, C. D. Collins, treasurer, and Dr. W. C. Sandusky. Mrs. B. B. Harrison presided at the organ.³

The growth of the local Baptist Church has been phenomenal. They have had three churches in Holly Springs. The first church⁴ still stands and is located on South Market Street near the

¹ The structure was completed in 1924. Mr. Mickle's article bears witness to the fact that Baptists generally follow the custom of postponing the dedication of church buildings until all indebtedness has been paid.

² Dr. Seale had a little hospital in the old Jap Butler home on North Memphis Street. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 34.

³ An early photo of the 1923 church may be seen in *It Happened Here*, 98. See *A History of the First Baptist Church*, 17-18. To help finance the new building (which did not include a steeple), the old church bell was sold May 6, 1925, to the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, 365 North Bonner Street, a predominately black congregation founded after the Civil War.

⁴ This building was actually the second church building, erected in 1855. The congregation has had four churches, not three as Mr. Mickle states. The first was in existence by 1838 and burned in 1849. The 1855 church was demolished in 1948. The foundation for the third church was laid in 1897, and the present church begun in 1923. See *A History of the First Baptist Church of Holly Springs, Mississippi, 1837-1987* (Holly Springs: South Center Printing Co., 1987).

cemetery, and is used by the Brown Hardware Company as a warehouse.

In 1898 while Dr. W. T. Lowery was pastor, this small congregation erected a small building on Van Dorn Avenue on the lot where the Standard Oil Company now has a filling station.⁵ During the years they worshiped in this church, they were served by the following pastors: Dr. Roland Q. Leavell, Dr. Leonard Leavell, the Rev. J. A. Rogers, the Rev. Mr. Zachert, the Rev. D. A. McCall, the Rev. J. P. Horton, and the Rev. E. L. Wesson.

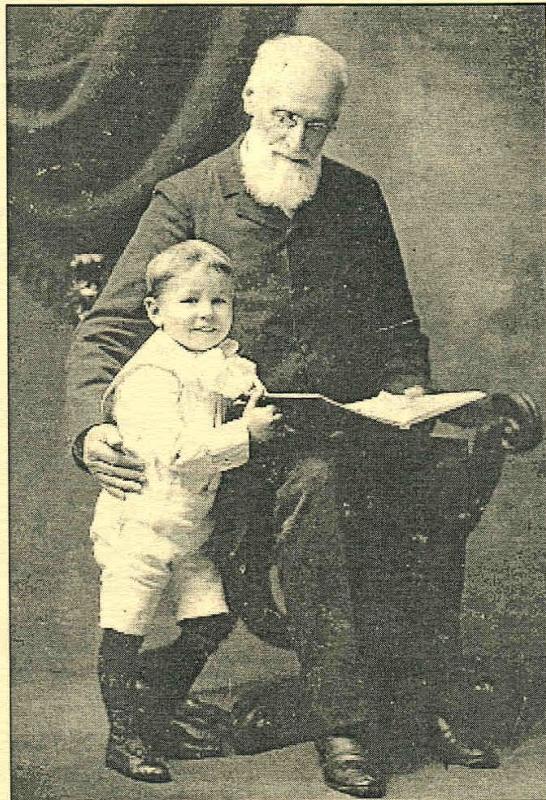
The present building was erected during the pastorate of Mr. Wesson, who was a most wonderful man of faith and this building was erected largely upon his faith and that with which he inspired his congregation. The members of this church are to be commended for the zeal they have shown and the sacrifices they have made to pay out this indebtedness on their church. Soon after this church building was finished, Mr. Wesson resigned and moved to Florida and was succeeded by the Rev. G. C. Sandusky, a most devout minister and under whose pastorate the Sunday school was fully graded and the young people well-organized.⁶

This church has shown a steady growth for the last few years under the pastorate of the Rev. R. A. Morris, who is in great favor with his own congregation as well as all the people of our little city.

A large crowd was in attendance at the dedication services on Sunday, notwithstanding the downpour that continued throughout the day. The good people of the town, regardless of church affiliation, rejoice with Dr. Morris and his congregation upon the good work they are doing for the advancement of the Kingdom.

⁵ Miller-Smith, 13; *Southern Tapestry*, 109, see photo, p. 100.

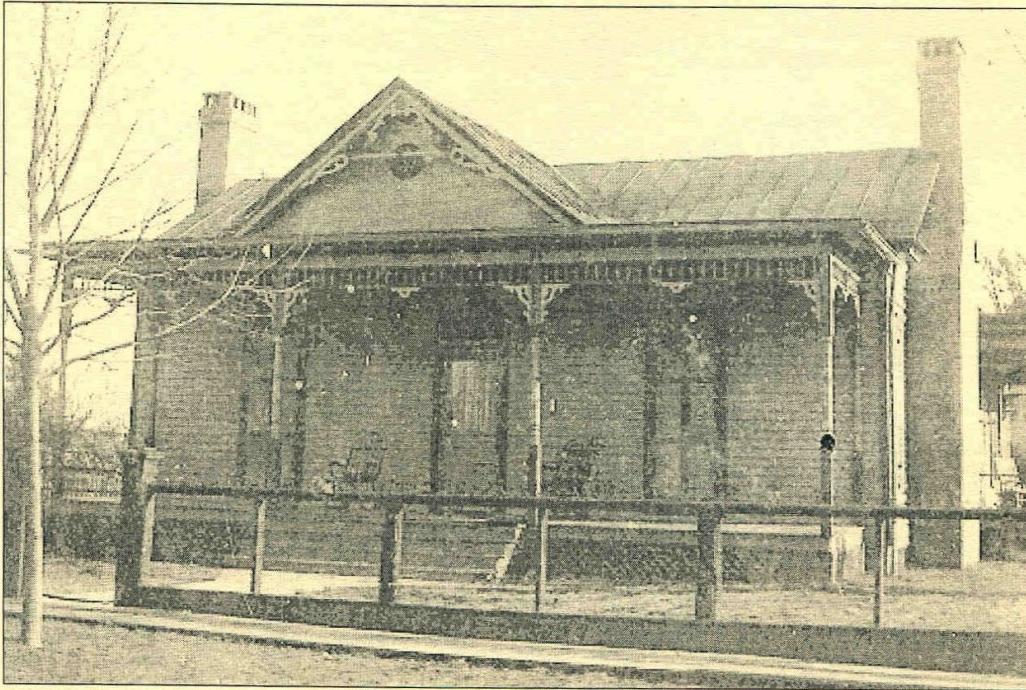
⁶ See *Shrines to Tomorrow*, 76.



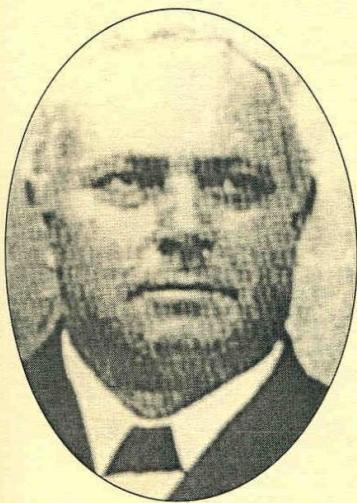
Of the Presbyterian Church, Mr. Mickle wrote that "Down the long line of pastors comes like a benediction the memory of the Rev. Dr. John Newton Craig, pastor in the seventies." Here the venerable Dr. Craig is pictured with an unidentified child. Picture from the First Presbyterian Church photo collection.



Dr. T. W. Raymond, Presbyterian pastor and President of Mississippi Synodical College, with his family. Mr. Mickle wrote of him that, "Dr. T. W. Raymond, who would take a chance, brought Sousa's band here about twenty-five years ago at a dollar a seat, and came out on it." The performance was part of the college's lyceum series and was held in the Masonic Hall. Photo from the First Presbyterian Church photo collection.



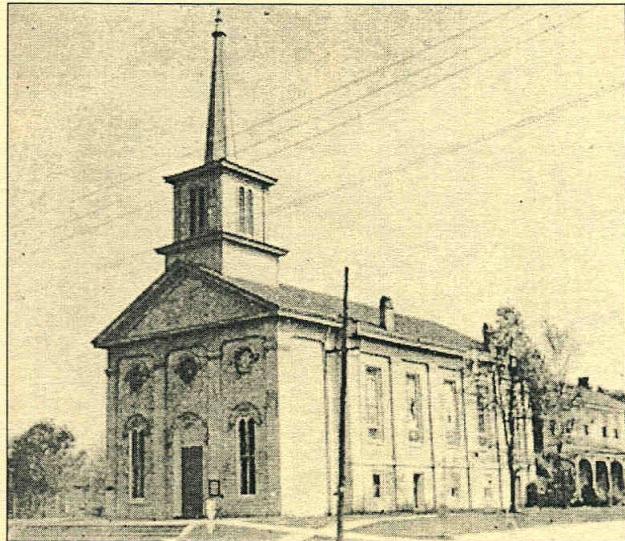
The Alexander B. Lane Place at the southeast corner of College and Walthall. Mrs. Mr. Mickle recorded that Mary Lane deeded a lot to the east of her home to which the old Christ Church building was moved in 1858 to become the home of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic parish. Lem Johnson photo. Chesley Smith collection.



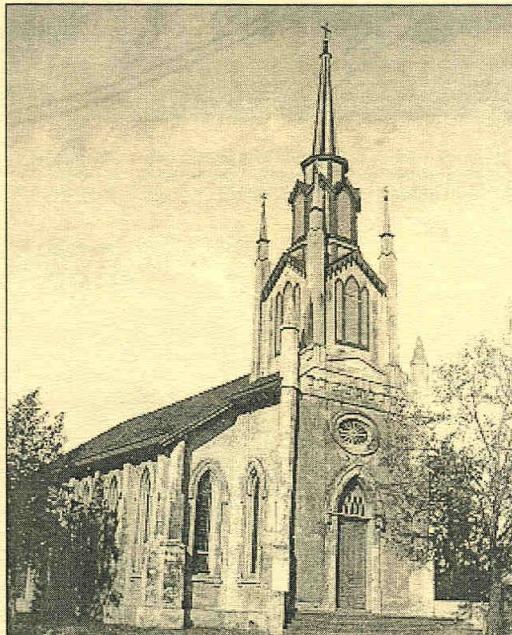
Bishop Elias Cottrell, born and reared in the Sylvestria neighborhood.
Photo courtesy of Mrs. Henderson Milan.



Bishop Cottrell's home on West Boundary Street.
Photo by Chesley Smith.



View of the First Methodist Church, showing the enclosed entrance,
the addition of which in 1869 Mr. Mickle describes.
The old parsonage is also seen in the background.
Photo by O. V. Whitten.



View of Christ Episcopal Church, Holly Springs. Mr. Mickle recalled a summer Sunday in 1929 when lightning struck the spire of Christ Church. He told The South Reporter that, "Edward H. Crump of Memphis, who attended Christ Church Sunday school in boyhood, was in the city at the time of the fire and offered to call out the aid of the Memphis fire department, if needed. The imminence of destruction of the historic old church seemed to affect everyone and urge them to help." Photo from Chesley Smith collection.

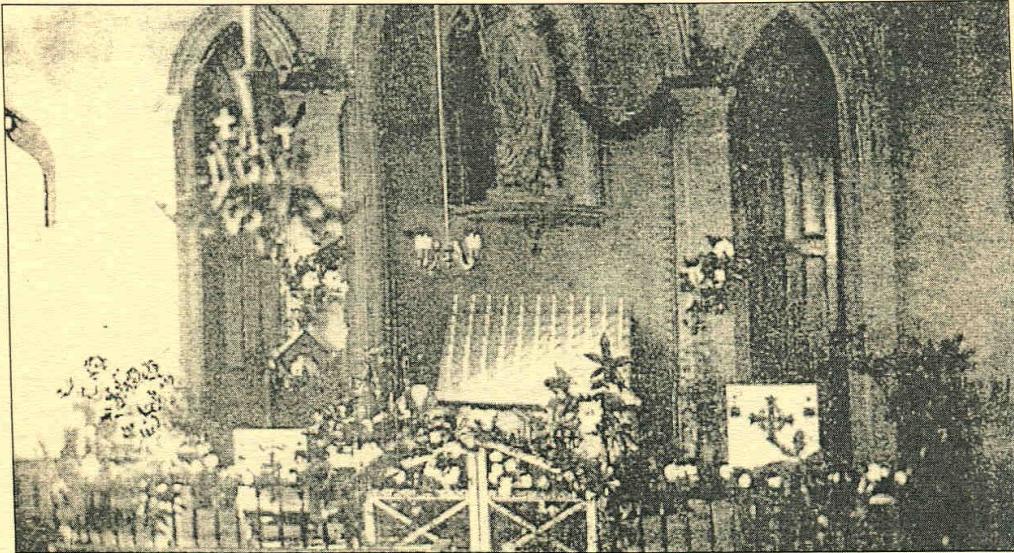


Of his church, Mr. Mickle wrote that, "To see the interior at its best it should be visited in the afternoon when the mellow rays of the setting sun filter through the windows in soft tones, filling the building with subdued but wonderful color. A holy calm seems to brood over the church and the impulse is strong to kneel in silent prayer."

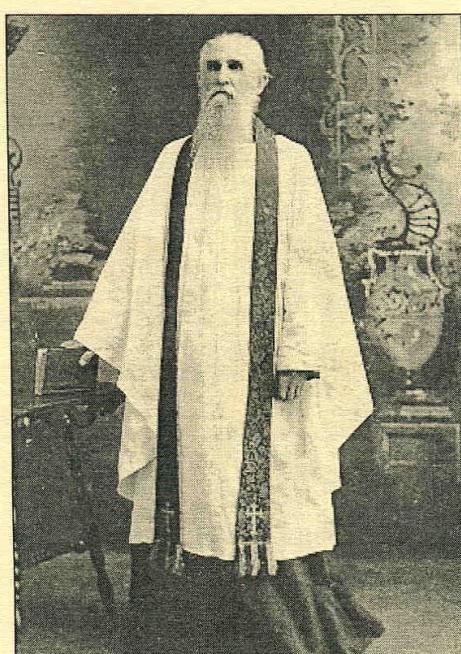
Interior view of Christ Church. Note the stenciled ceiling border. Chesley Smith collection.



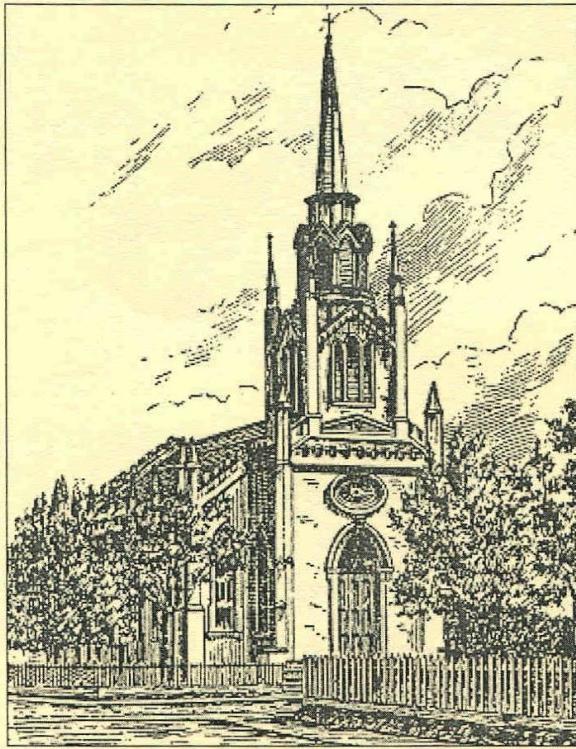
Wood paneled servants' gallery in Christ Church. Mr. Mickle recalled that "of late years it has served for Mrs. L. A. Smith's class of little tots." Chesley Smith collection.



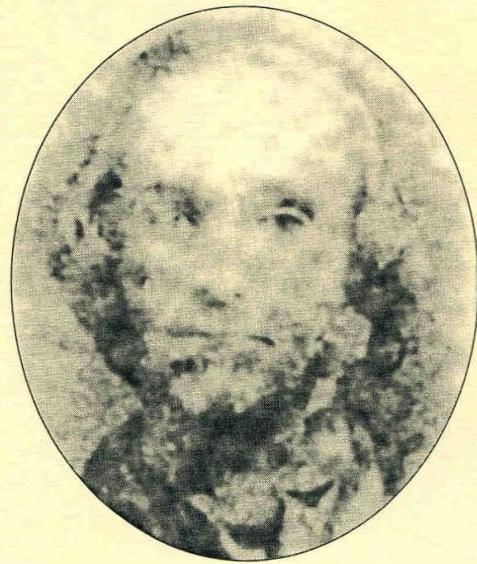
1888 photo of Christ Church showing the picture above the altar that Mr. Mickle remembered, done by the former rector, Dr. Pickett, of "The Good Shepherd." Mr. Mickle wrote that when the sanctuary was enlarged, to the great distress of rector and people, the drawing had to be sacrificed because it had been executed in charcoal or crayon on the wall, unfortunately instead of on canvas which could have been restored. The two pulpits which Mr. Mickle described, with their fine brocade paraments, may be seen on either side of the sanctuary gates. The taller one, on the right, was used for the sermon. The church was decorated for the wedding of Jasper F. Butler and Kate Nelms Crump.
Photo courtesy of Hugh H. Rather.



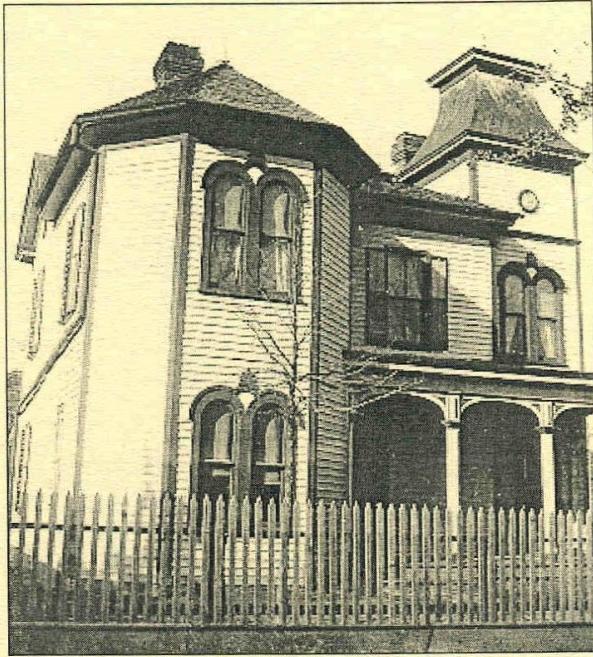
The eloquent the Rev. James Thomas Pickett, D.D., rector of Christ Church during Mr. Mickle's boyhood. Photo courtesy of Christ Episcopal Church.



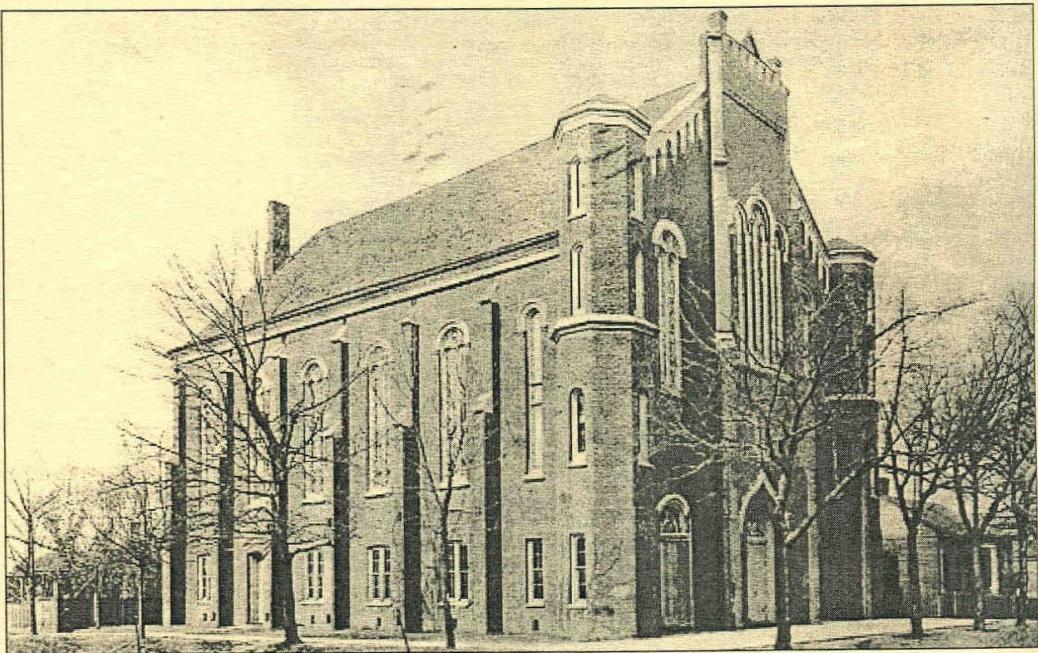
Pen and ink sketch of Christ Church by an unidentified artist,
showing the parapets and battlements to which Mr. Mickle referred.
From the Christ Church collection.



The Rev. Joseph Holt Ingraham, D.D.
Photo courtesy of the Rev. Bruce D. McMillan.



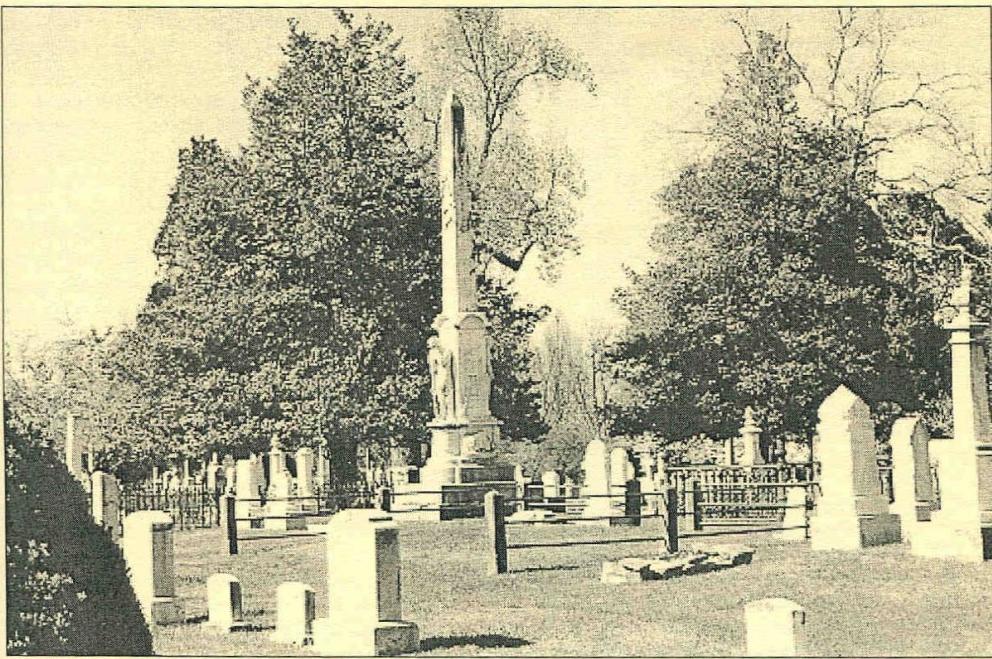
Episcopal Rectory designed by Samuel Manning Patton.
Lem Johnson photo. Chesley Smith collection.



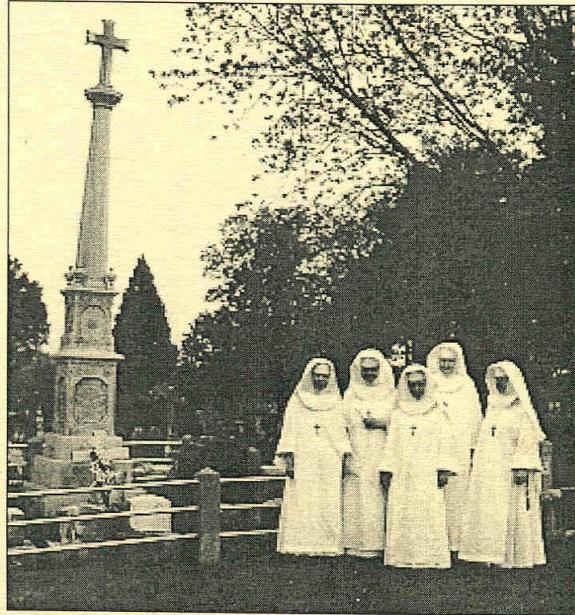
Postcard view of The First Presbyterian Church, Holly Springs. Mr. Mickle tells how the church was built by slaves belonging to the members, as indicated from the record book of John C. Walker, church treasurer. Thus, like the other old structures of Holly Springs, it stands as a tribute to the skill of the town's black craftsmen. Chesley Smith collection.



Interior photo, Holly Springs Presbyterian Church.
Photo from the First Presbyterian Church collection.



Confederate Monument in Hill Crest Cemetery, the lower part of which was dedicated in 1876.
Photo by R. Milton Winter.



Shrine to the Yellow Fever martyrs at Hill Crest,
photographed by Maggie Totten Robison during a visit by members of the Sisters of Charity, Nazareth, Ky.



Mrs. Helen Craft Anderson. It was she who suggested the name for Hill Crest Cemetery.
Mr. Mickle described her as having "strong intellectual facilities," and as "a woman of deep culture."
For many years the organist of the First Presbyterian Church, Mr. Mickle wrote that she served
"with an intense devotion in the varied church activities and in attendance on services."
Photo from the Hubert McAlexander collection.

Chapter XI. Schools and Social Life.

1.

CLOSE-UP VIEW OF ANTE-BELLUM LIFE.

Interesting Extracts From Diary of Miss [Emma Frances] Finley, Who Was Prominent in Holly Springs Circles Until Her Death in 1877.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (August 27, 1931).¹ Reading an old diary is an intriguing pastime, so much so that the diary of Samuel Pepys, English diarist and secretary to admiralty, 1673-1703, is still sold and his style copied occasionally by O. O. McIntyre and other columnists.

My friend Tom Finley loaned me the diary kept by his aunt, Miss Emma Finley, who passed away October 4, 1877.

She was the daughter of Mr. John T. and Mrs. Mary Jane Finley, the former having passed away before the diary was written.²

Antebellum newspapers gave little space to social matters, and information as to home and personal life in Holly Springs has been handed down by tradition.

This diary is the best close-up view of those days I have ever read. There is an absence of the pomp and glamour of the times, but the current events in the life of a bright, intelligent girl were jotted down for her own amusement.³

The Finley plantation lay four miles east of town, and their social contact seemed to have

been more in town, and the diary deals chiefly with town people and visits to town were of almost daily occurrence.

Some characters mentioned, all of whom are dead: Ginnie was Miss Virginia Finley, the oldest sister; Gusta was another sister, later Mrs. Augusta Scruggs; George was George J. Finley, the older brother and father of Tom Finley; Johnnie was John S. Finley, another brother and father of Mrs. Ann Craft; Cousin Sam was Sam Finley, who lived in the present home of Mrs. R. M. Evans, and was brother of the late Mrs. "Mit" [Finley] Dunlap; Mr. Scruggs was Lewis S. Scruggs, who married Augusta; Mr. Holland was W. J. L. Holland, later editor of *The Reporter*, who died in the yellow fever visitation of 1878.

The diary opens July 27, 1858, recording the death of little Emma Frances, infant. August 11 she is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Eben N. Davis at their plantation home, "Strawberry Plains" (John Davis Place near Mack),⁴ and Julia Little came

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² At his death John Tate Finley owned thirty-four slaves, placing him in the rank of Marshall County's more prominent planters. See *Marshall County Will and Probate Records*, compiled by Betty C. Wiltshire (Carrollton, Miss.: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1996): 121.

³ See R. Milton Winter, ed., *Our Pen Is Time: The Diary of Emma Finley* (Lafayette, Calif.: Thomas-Berryhill Press, 1999).

⁴ Named for the abundance of wild strawberries and the hundred-acre plateau behind the great house that overlooked the plantation, "Strawberry Plains," was the farm of Ebenezer and Martha Trimble Greenlee Davis, four miles northwest of Holly Springs. Martha Greenlee Davis (b. 1823) was widely admired for shooting a Federal soldier who cursed her. The large square mansion, built in 1851, was partially burned during the Civil War. Martha Greenlee made such repairs as she could, and lived in the house until her death. The property was elegantly restored in the 1970s, by a descendant, Margaret Finley and her husband, Dr. John W. Shackelford, and was willed by them in 1998 to the National Audubon Society. The home and surrounding plantation form the society's Mississippi Wildlife Conservation Project and visi-

out from Holly Springs. She was sister of Mrs. (Col.) George B. Myers.

August 21st finds part of the family at Red Sulphur Springs, Hardin Co., Tenn., for the water, going up with Dr. Litchfield, Mollie, Maggie, Jim Fant, Olin Lumpkin, John L. Hudson; picking up at Dr. Smith's (old R. Shumacker Place) Laura and Charlie Smith, Miss [Tunie] Farrar and Mr. [Charlie] Farrar; and at Lamar, Watty Hudson and Miss Lizzie McClune. Eaton Govan and Will Watson arrived today.

She heard the Rev. Mr. Fagg, of LaGrange, Tenn., preach. He was also rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, near Salem.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Clapp were also there and Cal Smith. Mr. Clapp, Dr. Litchfield and Cal Smith married daughters of Peter W. Lucas—sisters of Col. F. A. Lucas. Mrs. Etta Seale is granddaughter of Cal Smith. The springs belonged to Mr. Clapp, who however, was a lawyer in Holly Springs, later of Memphis, and probably leased them out.

In the opening paragraph at Red Sulphur the young diarist wails: "Why, my little Dollie, what are you doing here? Way up in this out-of-the-way place;" but winds up having a jolly good time. Ten-pins was the great game and she made a ten-strike; and, good Mr. Clapp will not tell, as "he plays cards himself." There is much flirting, and she wonders what will come of it.

The fare is abundant, varied and appetizing, but would be considered a little heavy today, and they paid the penalty for it then: fine pig, mutton, ham, chicken stewed and fried, all sorts of bread and vegetables, raisins, almonds, pies, cakes, etc.

The diarist is at home again, and after hovering over the fire; for it was quite cold, until 10 o'clock Sunday morning, August 29, drove to church (the old Presbyterian Church, now the J. A. Miller building), and returning "drove around by Mr. Clapp's and Mr. Coxe's beautiful houses"—(now Lester Fant's and Charley Dean's homes).

tor's education center. See Hubert H. McAlexander, "Strawberry Plains: House of History," *Holly Springs South Reporter* (June 19, 1958); also information and photos in *A Vanishing America*, 67-68; Miller-Smith, 52; *Our Pen Is Time*, cover and p. ii; and *Southern Tapestry*, 33, 73, 161, 169.

Tuesday they drove to town, Ginnie to the dentist's and Gusta to go to the party. John Chew and Heber Craft had come out the evening before to see about it, and Gusta must have dolled up in her party finery to show them, for—"Gus with her white tarleton, three skirts looped up, was three times larger than little Chew."

She took tea Tuesday in town with Aunt Mary; the other company being Col. Autry and lady, Mrs. Venable (Carrie Craft), Miss Lewis and Dick Watson.

2.

FOUR WEDDINGS OF 1857.

Interesting Letter and Clipping Sent to *The South Reporter*
by Mrs. Mary Megginson Stone, of Belen, Miss.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (March 17, 1932).¹ Another good friend, Mrs. Mary Megginson Stone, of Belen, Miss., sends me a clipping which makes interesting matter for a story. The clipping is from *The Southern Herald* of December 1857, published in Holly Springs by Judge Falconer, who was an editor and publisher here for many years before the Civil War. He died in 1878.

Mr. and Mrs. Megginson lived on Coldwater not from Mack. Mrs. Megginson was a sister of the late Daniel and Sam Rather, and half-sister of the late L. A. Rather. None of the Megginsons live here now, and the only members of the family living are Mrs. Stone and her brother Dan Megginson, of Myrtle, Miss.

It was a pleasant neighborhood on Coldwater, before the war and after—the Megginsons, the John M. Andersons,² the Eben Daves,³ the Stephensons,⁴ the Moores,⁵ and extending over towards Old Hudsonville and Sylvestria. Maj. Roger Barton,⁶ Mrs. Rosa Tyler's father, owned a plantation out there and lived on it for awhile.

Daniel Rather, father of Mrs. Megginson, was an early settler in Holly Springs and built and occupied for the rest of his life the old Rather house on Van Dorn Avenue just east of

Strickland Place.⁷ He was one of the earlier members of Holly Springs Lodge, International Order of Odd Fellows, and belonged when he died some years ago—their oldest member—and was laid to rest in Hill Crest Cemetery with the last rites of the order, a large number of Odd Fellows and citizens paying respects to the memory of an old and useful citizen.

LETTER AND CLIPPING

Mrs. Stone's letter and the clipping follow:

"Belen, Miss., Mar. 8, 1932.

"Mr. John M. Mickle,
Holly Springs, Miss.

"Dear Mr. Mickle:—Enclosed is a clipping which you might use under the heading 75 years ago. The year date of the marriages is 1857. I am sending it now for fear some of those whose memory would be interested in the retrospect would not be here next December.

"I came across the clipping in an old Valentine—something gorgeous—that my father sent my mother in 1855. Please be careful and return without folding in crease.

"You have no idea—being a native and never living away—how much comfort the old town paper can be. You're making a good one.

Your friend,
MARY STONE.

"P. S. The Rev. S. G. Starks, who said the marriage ceremony was principal or president of Franklin Female College, where and when mother graduated."

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter* (December 15, 1932 and July 3, 1941).

² John McCartney Anderson (1819-1916) was the longtime clerk of the session in the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church. See *Southern Tapestry*, 143.

³ See *Southern Tapestry*, 33, 73, 169; *Our Pen Is Time*, ii; Miller-Smith, 53.

⁴ See *Written in the Bricks*, 90, 94; Miller-Smith, 54; *Southern Tapestry*, 56.

⁵ See Miller-Smith, 55; *Southern Tapestry*, 54.

⁶ See *Southern Tapestry*, 23, 47.

⁷ The Rather house was built in 1894.

MARRIED

On Tuesday the 1st of December, in Holly Springs, at the residence of Wm. Finley, Esq.¹, by the Rev. Henry H. Paine, Mr. Joseph N. Paine, of Shelby County, Tenn., to Miss Laura B. Fenner,² of Holly Springs, Miss.

We acknowledge the receipt of a bottle of sparkling wine and a supply of choice pound cake, for which we return sincere thanks. The happy couple have our best wishes for a happy and prosperous life.

"The word is said, the pledge is made,
That binds two hearts in holiest chains;
The sacred rite has been performed,
Ordained by Heaven to soothe our pains.
May all the joys that earth can give,
Around their homes a radiance throw,
And warm affection, whilst they live,
Shield and protect them from every woe."

Married—In Danville, Kentucky, on the 19th of November, by the Rev. J. J. Bullock, Addison Craft, Esq., of Holly Springs, Miss., to Miss Frances Breckinridge Young, daughter of the late Dr. John C. Young, of Centre College.³

"Who the exquisite delights can tell,
The joy which mutual confidence imparts;
Or who can paint the charm unspeakable,
Which links in tender bands two faithful
hearts."

Our young friend and his accomplished bride, reached Holly Springs on Saturday even-

¹ William Finley was a Holly Springs attorney. He lived in a small Greek revival cottage that stood on East Van Dorn Avenue in the block between Chesterman and Walthall Streets, later the home of his daughter Mrs. "Mit" Finley Dunlap. The house burned several years ago. Hamilton, 130.

² See *Our Pen Is Time*, 90-91.

³ Frances Young Craft began the city's first lending library. The idea for such a library is said to have been conceived by Mrs. Craft and her sister, Mrs. Helen Craft Anderson in 1886. They used the proceeds of an entertainment to rent a room and purchase the first books. The founders named the library for Judge Alexander Mosby Clayton, who gave several sets of books to the project. When Frances Craft gave up the work, her daughter, Elizabeth assumed the responsibility. By 1936, it had 6,000 volumes. A public library was established in the county in 1934. *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 20; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 286.

ing last and received the welcome congratulations of hosts of warm friends.

At the residence of Mr. Daniel Rather, in Holly Springs, on Tuesday last, by the Rev. S. G. Starks, Mr. Henry P. Megginson, to Miss Virginia A. Rather—all of Holly Springs.

We wish the married couple peace and happiness.

"As hand in hand they journey on
The rugged road of life's career;
May gentle love and friendship strong,
Smile on their path to bless and cheer."

On the 2nd of December at the residence of Col. William Polk, by the Rev. J. W. Rogers, Mr. Robert Payne to Miss Mollie McGowan, all of Marshall County.

OF DIFFERENT FAMILIES

Of the principals in the Paine-Fenner and Payne-McGowan weddings I can learn nothing. The bridegrooms seem to have belonged to different families, as their names are spelled differently.

The Rev. Henry H. Paine,⁴ the officiating minister at the Paine-Fenner wedding, was pastor

⁴ The Rev. Henry H. Paine, minister of the Presbyterian Church from 1855 to 1869, was a very important figure in the Holly Springs community during the Civil War era. He was likely born in the north of Ireland, about 1805. According to records of Princeton Seminary his older brother James, who served during this period as minister of the Presbyterian Church at Somerville, Tennessee, was born near Londonderry, in northern Ireland, December 25, 1803, with the family immigrating to America in 1820 in one of the last great movements of Protestant Irish to America. Some of the family's ancestors were in the siege of Londonderry, and perished as martyrs in the Protestant cause, and if this were not honor enough, they were also lineal descendants of Scotland's greatest hero and reformer, John Knox. James Paine married Matilda Finley, daughter of one of Lexington's well-known Presbyterian families, and it may have been through her likely connection with the branch of the Finley line that had moved to Marshall County that a recommendation came that Henry Paine be considered for the pulpit of the Holly Springs Church. Henry Paine was graduated from Washington College (later Washington and Lee University) in Virginia, and Union Theological Seminary at Hampden-Sydney in the same state. A gifted preacher, who also taught in the local schools, he was

of the Presbyterian Church here for several years before and after the War, and was father of the late Miss Mary Paine.¹ The bridegroom may have been a relative.

William Finley, Esq., at whose home the wedding took place, lived in the house now owned and occupied by Mrs. R. M. Evans, on Van Dorn Avenue. He was the father of the late Mrs. M. F. Dunlap and Sam Finley.

Miss Mollie I. McGowan, bride the Payne-McGowan wedding, may have been related to the prominent McGowan family who settled below Waterford from South Carolina in the early days, but their granddaughter, Mrs. Jack Walker, could not say.

The McGowans helped largely to found the Presbyterian Church near their home, which once had a fairly large congregation.²

This wedding took place in the home of Col. William Polk,³ now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Tucker on Craft Street.⁴ I knew Col. and Mrs. Polk and their daughter, Miss Emily Polk, well. They were Episcopalians and Miss Em. Polk taught in Christ Church Sunday school.

Henry Polk, the colored shoemaker, who belonged to them, was the oldest communicant of Christ Church when he died a few years ago. His

an outspoken Confederate partisan. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 141-48, 174-211; *Civil War Women*, 10, 230-31.

¹ The daughter of Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Henry H. Paine, Miss Mary Rowland Paine (1839-1921) kept house for her father after the death of her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Baxter Paine in 1870. After Mr. Paine moved to Texas in 1872, Mary Paine remained in Holly Springs, where she made her career in Holly Springs as a teacher of art in the North Mississippi Presbyterian (later Mississippi Synodical) College. She made her home with the Eagleton Smiths and later the Addison Crafts. Both church and community held her in high regard, and she is remembered as one of Mississippi's early female portrait painters. See *Civil War Women*, 213.

² This was the Spring Creek Presbyterian Church. See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 138-39, 239.

³ Mr. Mickle is mistaken here. Miss Emily Polk's father was General Thomas G. Polk. Col. William Polk lived near Chulahoma.

⁴ See photo, Miller-Smith, 106.

funeral was held from the church and the vestry acted as honorary pallbearers.⁵

Bishop Leonidas Polk, brother of [General Thomas] Polk, was bishop (Episcopal) of Louisiana when the War of the Sixties came. He chose a military career before entering the ministry and was a graduate of West Point. He said a West Pointer's duty in time of war was with the armies of his country, and although exempt he entered the service of the Confederacy, and was a major general when he fell in battle.

Maj. and Mrs. Addison Craft are best remembered of the four weddings chronicled, as they spent the rest of their lives here. I have often told of them in my stories.

They had a large part in church, business and social life of the town. Their daughters, Misses Lizzie and Cornelia Craft, still live in the old home, "The Pines," and Danville, their mother's old home, is yet a mecca for them.⁶

⁵ Henry Polk was the last freed slave to retain his membership in Christ Church. Across the Old South, some freed slaves continued to hold membership in the churches of their former masters. Almost all left Methodist and Baptist churches, but in Episcopal and Presbyterian churches, a few remained. See Kenneth K. Bailey, "Post-Civil War Racial Separations in Southern Protestantism: Another Look," *Church History* 46 (December 1977): 544-73. A black woman named Emily Buford was received into the membership of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church in 1893, and Inez Berryhill Adams, who lived in the Presbyterian manse with her aunt and uncle, the Rev. and Mrs. C. Z. Berryhill, while she attended Mississippi Synodical College, recalled that former slaves still worshiped in the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church. "They sat in the balcony and never mingled with the white members." *Class of 1912*, 30-31. Henry Polk was baptized in 1859 at the age of seven in Christ Church. Chesley Smith recalled that Polk would sit on the back pew, and come forward for communion after everyone else had received. See *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 73.

⁶ See *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 219.

3.

STORY OF BIG COTILLION PARTY HERE SEVENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (November 24, 1932).¹ The first part of this story, in quotations, is taken from *The Holly Springs Reporter* of April 21, 1892:

"The following programme of a cotillion party given at Holly Springs more than thirty-four years ago, will be read with interest by the oldest inhabitants.

Of the twenty-seven names appearing the list eight survive, nineteen having been called to the other shore, where they now "rest 'neath the shade of the trees."

"Mr. Wm. T. Barry, of *The Reporter* printed the programme in the office of *The Holly Springs Times* on a Washington hand press, and he is still with us, as lively a compositor as he was in the days of yore. The following is the programme referred to:

COTILLION PARTY

"You are cordially invited to attend a cotillion party, to be given at the Masonic Hall, on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, 1858.

"Committee of Invitation—Joe Caruthers, F. B. Shuford, W. A. Goodman, W. C. Pegues, J. D. Litchfield, Samuel Benton, Heber Craft, Samuel F. Christian, J. L. Hudson.

"Committee of Arrangements—Lewis S. Scruggs, P. Ingraham, W. R. B. Hill, G. W. Hudson, John T. Smith, W. D. Roberts, B. S. Crump, P. Pointer, M. H. Thomson.

"Floor Managers—K. G. Martin,² C. Edmondson, John Chew, W. T. Watson, W. Crump,

Jr., H. B. Harris, Henry Scales, James M. Scruggs, Charles L. Bracken.-

"Holly Springs, December 20, 1858."

If only I had a list of the fair dames who attended that cotillion and their chaperones, this story would be a good cross section of society in 1858.³

Bright eyes, music, soft lights over all; how could any in that gay scene dream that less than three years the men would know the shock of battle and the women would be gathered in that very ball room to make uniforms for the boys at the front? While perhaps one read aloud the war news in the papers.⁴

³ Mr. Mickle's wish is partially fulfilled in this note from the diary which Emma Finley kept, dated December 22, 1858: "There is to be a big party in town Friday night [Christmas eve], our tickets have arrived but it is doubtful if any of us attend." The Finley daughters were popular in local social circles, so their reluctance to go is unexplained. *Our Pen Is Time*, 50.

⁴ Reading aloud from a newspaper or magazine was a frequent pastime in the era before television or radio. For example, on Sunday, January 15, 1865, Cora Watson recorded that "Mr. Paine says it is his firm conviction that this is the last year of the war. He thinks neither the South nor the North can sustain themselves longer than through this year, and he thinks if the people will only humble themselves and pray earnestly for God's blessing on our cause, and if the soldiers will only resolutely do their duty a little longer, the victory will be ours. This, he says, is a dark hour for us in this part of the country. Hood's army, broken, crushed, dispirited, thrown back from Tennessee on our state; and our position here between the opposing armies very unfortunate. Many persons think that Holly Springs will be occupied by the Yankees, and there is a rumor in town that Thomas is leading his army down from Nashville to Memphis preparatory to an advance through this country. Mr. Paine says we are undoubtedly on the eve of another bloody and fearful campaign, and our state is to be the seat of war. We ought earnestly to pray for success for our armies and for strength to endure the trials through which we may be called on to pass. Sister read aloud

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 15, 1932).

² Kenneth Garrett Martin was a son of Colonel Andrew L. Martin, who built near Laws Hill a fine story-and-a-half house with a beautiful suspended stair after his marriage to Virginia Jamison in 1857. The place was long occupied by the Miller family.

Fate was kind, however, to the young men of the cotillion list, and all came back but two, Sam Benton and Will Watson.

Col. Sam Benton's body rests in Hill Crest; Will Watson's, I believe, in old Virginia.¹ Mrs. Cora Watson, Will Watson's widow, later remarried Sam E. Carey, an official of the Mississippi Central Railroad.² Their daughter, Mrs. Hamilton Johnson, lives in Baton Rouge.³ Mr. Watson was a son of the late J. W. C. Watson.

Joe Caruthers was a relative of Dr. Norman Holson, and had bachelor quarters in the second

tonight in Bickersteth's "Treatise on Prayer." "Civil War Women," 75.

¹ Young Belle Strickland told her diary how her teacher, Miss Cora Watson, went to bring her husband's body home for burial. "Monday, December 25th 1865: Since I wrote last Miss Cora has been to Tennessee after her husband's corpse. She brought him home last Wednesday and he was buried Friday." William T. Watson died in the First Battle of Franklin (Tennessee). *Civil War Women*, 135. The grave in Hill Crest Cemetery is not marked.

² Cora E. White was born in Fayette, Miss., June 29, 1843. At six, her mother died and she was adopted by her uncle and aunt, Judge and Mrs. John W. Harris, of Covington, Tenn. In 1861, she married William T. Watson, son of J. W. C. and Catherine Davis Watson, of Holly Springs. Will Watson died in battle, April 10, 1863, and ten months later, her foster-mother Mrs. Harris died, so that Cora made her home with her husband's family in Holly Springs. She kept a diary of daily events during the Civil War, an important source of local history in that period. Samuel E. Cary came to Holly Springs in 1850 as cashier of the Northern Bank. In 1860 he became the general ticket agent for the Mississippi Central Railroad. His first wife was Annie, sister of H. W. Walter (1852), and he married Mrs. Cora Watson in 1870. After their marriage Cora Watson and S. E. Cary moved to New Orleans, where she wrote for *The New Orleans Times-Democrat*. She died December 9, 1911, and her body rests in Hill Crest Cemetery. See Hamilton, 129; *Civil War Women*, x, 231.

³ Mrs. Johnson's granddaughter, Cary Johnson, edited her grandmother's diary for her master's degree thesis. See "Life Within the Confederate Lines, as Depicted in the War-Time Journal of a Mississippi Girl," (M.A. thesis, Louisiana State University, 1929). The original journal, 176 pages long, with entries over a period from August 13, 1864 to September 1, 1865, cannot be located by this researcher, but Johnson states that all references in her grandmother's diary which bear upon the Civil War or the life of the Southern people during that time are excerpted in the thesis. These have been republished in the book *Civil War Women* referred to in these pages.

cottage south of the *South Reporter* building.⁴ He spent his remaining years after the yellow fever in Jackson, Tenn., where he had relatives of the same name.

Dr. F. B. Shuford was a physician of note here, and was father of Rufus Shuford. W. A. Goodman lived in Memphis after the war, and was son of Walter Goodman, first president of the Mississippi Central Road. E. M. Smith's home⁵ is on the site of the Goodman residence.

W. C. Pegues was grand-uncle of Frank Wall, and lived south of the city.

Dr. J. D. M. Litchfield was an antebellum physician who married one of Col. Peter Lucas' daughters. Heber Craft was brother of the late Mrs. Helen Anderson, and Maj. Addison Craft and spent the latter part of his life in McComb, Miss. His body rests in Hill Crest Cemetery.⁶

Samuel Christian may have been a son of the late Dr. Christian, who died here many years ago. J. L. Hudson was father of the late John L. and Lynn B. Hudson of the Hudsonville neighborhood. M. H. Thomson was the father of the late Jim Gray Thomson, and uncle of M. H. (Hop) Hudson.

Lewis S. Scruggs was a rising young business man, member of the dry goods firm of Mattison & Scruggs, in the building on the west side now occupied by L. B. Slayden.⁷

⁴ *The South Reporter* then occupied the building at 154 South Market Street, presently the law office of C. Collier Carlton Esq.

⁵ The present Bert Bonds residence at 217 South Craft Street.

⁶ He built a cottage across from his parents' mansion, where the Marshall County Library now stands. See photo, Miller-Smith, 105.

⁷ Scruggs, who had served in the Confederate army attaining the rank of major, went into business with Joseph B. Mattison, later one of the city's newspaper editors. Emma Finley told her journal in September 1858 how the two brought eager viewers to their store to see a section of the transatlantic cable which they displayed. The technology was highly interesting, for rural Holly Springs had not long had telegraph service. Wires had been strung east toward Salem, and on to Alabama, beginning January 7, 1848. See James J. Selby, "Sundries Events," *Ansearchin' News: The Tennessee Genealogical Magazine* 31 (Fall 1984): 132; *Our Pen Is Time*, 21-22.

Prentice Ingraham was son of the then-rector of Christ Church, who was author of *The Prince of the House of David*.

W. R. B. Hill was the first white child born in Holly Springs. He was uncle of the late Bate Athey and his widow was the late Mrs. Stella Craft Hill.¹

G. W. Hudson was probably a relative of J. L. Hudson. John T. Smith was grand uncle of Mrs. Etta Seale; he moved to Memphis shortly after the war. W. D. Roberts married a Miss Yancy and lived in the old Yancy house, now Mrs. Olive Gibbons' home.² He was deputy clerk under the late B. W. Walthall in the seventies.

B. S. Crump was president of the Bank of Holly Springs and senior member of Crump & Co. when he died of yellow fever in 1878. Mrs. B. G. West of Little Rock and William Crump of Greenville, Miss., are his children. William Crump, Jr., B. S. Crump's younger brother, and associate in business, died within a week of his brother of the fever. He was named for his father, William Crump, whose antebellum home, "Tuckahoe," stood on the site of Mrs. Z. J. Hill's residence on Salem Road.

P. Pointer was doubtless son or relative of Dr. Pointer, whose beautiful colonial home on Salem Avenue, subsequently became Bethlehem Academy, and later new St. Thomas Hall. It was destroyed by fire in 1898.

R. G. Martin. There were several Martin families here, some not related. I fancy, though, that he belonged to the "Martin Hill" family, two miles northwest on the [old] Memphis Highway, or another brother, John D. Martin, who lived half a mile southwest of the city, and who sold all or part of the land to the state on which to build the University of Mississippi.

I believe C. Edmondson's name was Catesby, and that his was the family from which came the late Tom Edmondson and Mrs. George M. Go- van. Their country home was just off the Salem

Road and the farm is owned now by Mrs. B. F. Mann, who has built a modern bungalow on it.

John Chew was a young lawyer, I think, and his father lived at what was later known as the Wash Wright Place.³ His son, the Rev. John Marshall Chew, is an Episcopal clergyman in Newburg, N. Y. After the war Mr. Chew went to New York and spent the rest of his life there.

H. B. Harris, must be "Cote" Harris, who I remember in my childhood as a popular young man-about-town.

Henry Scales was a son of Mrs. Nancy Scales, who lived near Hudsonville, and was my mother's paternal aunt. He was brother of the late Dabney M. Scales of Memphis and Mrs. Ben Gray of Sylvestria; and cousin of Frank Wall, Miss Nellie Gray and Mrs. W. B. Brown. He was uncle of John Gray and Mrs. Frank Wall.

Charles L. Bracken moved to Missouri after the war. He was brother of Mrs. G. C. Myers and Mrs. Fannie Bracken McWhorter of Jackson, Miss., and the late Mrs. Ella Lucas.

¹ Mrs. Athey, whose husband was the nephew of Wiley A. P. Jones, was the donor of ironwork made at the Jones-McIlwaine foundry for the beautiful entrance gates that once stood on the Memphis highway at the northern edge of Holly Springs. *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (April 17, 1938).

² The house, now torn away, stood east of the Walthall house on East College Avenue.

³ This house stood at the south end of Spring Street, behind the present Tyson Apartments which are located at the corner of Spring Street and Gholson Avenue. Captain John Chew was an early settler, active in political affairs.

4.

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF BIG TOURNAMENT, GLAMOROUS SOCIAL EVENT OF 1866.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (December 20, 1934). The most glamorous social event since the close of the War Between the States was undoubtedly the big tournament that took place in July, 1866, at Mrs. Powell's grove—known in later years as the Chesterman Place. Mrs. Powell was Ben Powell's grandmother.

I have never known a tournament in Marshall County on such a scale, and the object, to raise funds for a monument to the Confederate dead—the strongest appeal that could have been made. The aroma of the Old South was just the breath of war behind, the knights were heroes of a hundred battles; and woman still stood on her pedestal—worshipped of all men.¹

¹ Equestrian tournaments of this sort very popular in the Old South. Traditionally held on holidays—particularly Independence Day, the “ring tournament” as it was called in the Deep South, was said to have originated in England following the Norman Conquest. The tradition was brought to the American South by the colonists and revived in the nineteenth century under the influence of the Romantic movement, and tournaments became expressions of the Southern ideal of chivalry and manhood. A crowd of 6,000 gathered to witness one at Jackson, Miss. In 1859. A letter from William M. Strickland Jr. to his sister Belle exists, in which he makes reference to the tournament. Something of the excitement the occasion must have generated is evident from the letter. It is reprinted here in full: “Holly Springs, July 9, 1866. My Dear Sister: Papa received your letter yesterday dated the 6th talking about your and Kate’s play-house and about Miss Mollie’s asking you to have something that was not on the table. She used to do me that way, too. Last Tuesday night Mrs. Pugh Govan gave the grown people a party—it was given mostly to Miss Hallie Harrison from Columbus. Hannie Robinson was dead in love with her and carried her to the party. Mr. Hardin Perkins, Mrs. Dawson’s son died last Saturday, morning at nine o’clock drunk. They took his remains to Memphis this morning. It is lonesome. I almost wish school was going on. A Mr. Lewis from North Carolina commenced his school here last Tuesday. The boys say he is mighty tight. It is raining right now. Miss Fannie Latimer that gave me that lock of hair is coming up to the Tournament from Canton. The men have got up a good many seats

The first day’s tilting was interrupted by a heavy rain and the tournament was concluded next day. A clipping from *The Memphis Daily Argus*, July 20, 1866, gives some data, but only of the second day. Only one tilt remained to be taken as two had been taken the first day. Each knight had five rings and there were three tilts.

“At or near 10 o’clock,” says *The Argus*, “the marshals, headed by Gen. W. S. Featherston, mounted on the most showy charger on the ground, and the knights made their appearance and entered the enclosure. The knights after parading around the ring to the music of the band, retired to await the calling of their names.

“The bugle sounded and off dashed the first knight, the second, and so on. When the name of Willie Matthews—‘Rob Roy’—(later the Rev. W. D. Matthews of Oklahoma, now deceased) was called, he started at full speed, as usual. His horse fiery, and not well trained, as few of them were. Just after passing the first ring his horse struck a muddy place and fell, bringing the rider headlong to the earth and falling partially on him. In an instant, however, he was up and rode to his tilt.” (He was uncle of Mrs. W. H. Jones and Mrs. S. R. Crawford).

The Knights of Douglas—Eddie Walker of Okolona—took eleven rings, the highest, and won pride of place and selected Miss Anna Davidson of Holly Springs as Queen of Love and Beauty. Miss Davidson, I have heard old folks

out at the Tournament. Papa is up at the Courthouse now. We miss you very much. I saw Bettie McCarroll this morning and told that I was going to write to you and asked did she have any message to send. She said [she] did not but to tell you that you must make haste and come home and sent her love to you. Minnie and Papa and all of us are well and Willie Govan too. Excuse my writing and don’t let any body see it. All of us send our love. Give my love to Mrs. Coffman and all of the family. Your affectionate, Brother.” See Jerah Johnson’s article, “Tournaments,” in *The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, 1262, and *Civil War Women*, 137-38.

say, was one of the most beautiful women who ever lived in Holly Springs. I was too young to remember her. She married Bayliss Gray and they moved to Jackson, Tenn. She died in Nashville twenty-five years ago.

The Knights of Luxahoma (ten rings), C. S. Meriwether of DeSoto County, nominated Miss Octavia Stinson of Marshall County as First Maid of Honor.

The Knights of Twelfth Night, or What You Will (ten rings), John S. Finley (father of Mrs. Ann Craft of Holly Springs, nominated Miss Nannie Dunlap of Holly Springs (later Mrs. George J. Finley, and mother of Tom Finley).

Knight of Bull Run (ten rings), J. P. (Pitt) Humphreys of Red Banks, nominated Miss Helen Fant of Holly Springs, as Third Maid of Honor.

The Knight No Name (eight rings), A. C. Brewer (husband of the late Mrs. Lida Coxe Brewer of "Galena"), being a married man, waived his right of naming the fourth Maid of Honor in favor of Henry S. Dancy, who chose Miss Jennie Llewellyn of Holly Springs.

YOUTHS IN SECOND CONTEST

After dinner—they called the mid-day meal dinner then—the bugle sounded and a second contest, of youths under seventeen years of age took place. Their names and the rings they took were:

Knights of Daubers, A. B. (Bud) Upshaw, 2 rings. He and his father Col. E. W. Upshaw, later were publishers of *The South*, and Bud was assistant attorney general, I think, under President Grover Cleveland. He was cousin of Mrs. Mal Williamson Smith of Dallas, Texas.

Andrew R. Govan, 6 rings. He was brother of the late Mrs. Ed Chew, and was a planter in the Helena, Ark., County.

Knight of Fenians, William Alexander, 3 rings. He was brother of the late Mrs. Dora Tyson.

Knight of Memphis, J. Worsham, 2 rings. He was a connection, I believe, of the late Mrs. M. F. Dunlap.

Knight of Potomac, 1 ring, Will C. Wooten (brother of Miss Nettie Wooten of Miami, Fla., and Mrs. Jackson Johnson of St. Louis). Knight of Ivanhoe, J. D. Alston, 1 ring.

Master Govan took first prize, a saddle, and chose Miss Betsy Hull (mother of Mrs. Gelon Craft, and a great toast among the younger set of that day) his Queen of Love and Beauty. Master Alexander won second prize, a bridle.

HORSEMANSHIP CONTEST

Followed the best color feature of the tournament, a contest in horsemanship—most Southern youth could ride well then, and some of these had ridden with Morgan during the war. Contestants were:

Samuel Finley (brother of the late Mrs. M. F. Dunlap, and later mayor of Holly Springs); R. A. McWilliams (who doesn't remember old Bob, sheriff for so many terms?); Henry S. Dancy, (the Rev.) W. D. Matthews; Joseph M. Butts (father of the late Mrs. Ethel Butts Quiggins);

George M. Walthall (brother of the late Mrs. Kate Freeman), A. C. Brewer, James A. Matthews (father of Mrs. W. H. Jones), E. M. Walker, A. B. Upshaw, R. G. (Gobey) Robinson (brother of the Southern poetess, Anna Robinson Watson), L. A. Stephenson (dentist, granduncle of Chester McAlexander);

K. G. Martin, R. A. McWilliams, T. B. Garrett, Charles L. Brackin (brother of the late Mrs. Ella Lucas); A. R. Govan, D. Chism; W. Lea (father of Will Lea); W. J. Walker, J. R. O'Dell (kinsman of Charles O'Dell, of Chulahoma), Charles Nunnally (uncle and namesake of Mayor C. N. Dean). Mr. Nunnally's horse fell in the first day's tilt, and though he continued to ride he died not long afterward from the effect of the injuries he received.

YOUNG LADIES, JUDGES

Young ladies of Holly Springs who acted as Judges were Miss Susie Hull¹ (Mrs. William Lea of Memphis), Miss Sallie Lea (the late Mrs. John Calhoon), Miss Lou Alexander (the late Mrs. T. C. Ingram of Byhalia, and sister of the late Mrs. Dora Tyson), Miss Leanora House (daughter of

¹ Daughter of John and Anne Crump Hull.

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¹ Daughter of John and Anne Crump Hull.

5.

COMPLIMENTARY PARTY OF WIDE INTEREST MAY 15, 1870.

Wedding of Robert A. McWilliams and the Beautiful Miss Amanda Roberts
Celebrated With Large Gathering in the Court Room.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (October 1, 1931).¹ Mrs. Janie McWilliams Lyon² lends me a copy of an invitation to a dance complimentary to her parents, Robert A. McWilliams and Miss Amanda Roberts, who had been but recently married.

With the head "Complimentary Party," it reads: "You are respectfully invited to attend a party, complimentary to R. A. McWilliams and Lady, at the Court Room, Friday, May 15, 1870.³

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² Chesley Smith wrote that: "I was fascinated by Miss Janie McWilliams Lyon's house behind the Presbyterian Church. Everyone called her Miss Janie Mack. The front walk was made of beer bottles by turning them with bottoms up and imbedding them in the ground in a pattern and color scheme with two shades of tan and a few black ones for accent." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 52-53. Parts of the old house, owned by Robert A. McWilliams, who was sheriff of Marshall County for sixteen years, may date back to 1844, when D. D. Jones built a three-room log house on the site. Bud Upshaw bought the house from Jones and covered it with clapboard. The long windows in front date from the 1850s. Wesley Marrett, who owned the place in the 1870s (and ran the saloon), put down the famous ale bottle front walk in 1875. (The ale was imported from Glasgow Scotland.) Hubert H. McAlexander to R. Milton Winter, September 17, 1978. The house, now called "Whitten Place," for its owners from the 1940s through the 1980s, located at 126 West Gholson Avenue, is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. James R. Thomas. See photo in *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, p. 91

³ A similar event was held some months later with the following invitation: "Complimentary Party: You are respectfully invited to attend a Party to be given complimentary to Mr. R. W. Fort and Lady at the residence of Col. H. W. Walter, in Holly Springs, on Thursday evening, the 29th of Dec., '70. Reception committee: Jas. T. Fant, Heber Craft, R. A. McWilliams, I. C. Levy. Committee on Arrangements: Watson Mason, Geo. M. Walhall, W. A. Jones, H. S. Dancy. Committee of Invitation: Henry C. Myers, Brodie S. Hull, H. S. Oppenheimer, Sam'l B. McConico. Floor Managers: W. R. B. Hill, L. S. Lancaster,

"Managers—W. A. Jones, H. C. Myers, H. S. Dancy.

"Committee of Invitation—J. H. Watson, E. R. Jones, R. W. Fort, B. S. Hull, W. R. B. Hill, H. C. Barton.

"Honorary Managers—Col. H. W. Walter, Maj. G. M. Govan, H. S. Dancy, Maj. B. S. Crump, Maj. W. M. Strickland, Dr. A. B. Ross."

The newlyweds were very popular; the bridegroom was, or was soon to become, a member of the grocery firm of Crump & Co., one of the best known business houses of that day, and doing a prodigious business. The bride, the beautiful and gentle Amanda Roberts, beloved by everybody.⁴

The wedding had taken place April 12 at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Mary Anderson Roberts, on Randolph Street, where the Percy Andersons used to live,⁵ and the young people started housekeeping in what is now Mrs. Hettie Ross' home.⁶

PARTY IN COURT ROOM

The party took place in the court room;⁷ and this recalls that Holly Springs was then on the crest of the first wave of its comeback from the

C. C. Harris, H. C. Smith, L. A. Stephenson, E. H. Canon, H. C. Barton, Egbert R. Jones." *Holly Springs South Reporter* (May 26, 1938).

⁴ She was the aunt of Anna Roberts McGowan, of "Grey Gables."

⁵ This house is located at the corner of Randolph Street and Roberts Avenue.

⁶ This house stands at the southeast corner of Randolph Street and Salem Avenue.

⁷ It was a common practice for Mississippi courthouses to be built so that the seats in the courtroom could be removed for dances. As late as 1924, the courthouse at Rosedale, Mississippi was so equipped. Unfortunately, it has been remodeled so that dances can no longer be held in the courtroom.

destruction of the war, which had left the courthouse and the north and east sides of the square in ruins. Rebuilding was going on.

The new courthouse had just been completed¹ and was the only public place where entertainments could be given. Balls before the war had taken place at The Hall, the second floor of the Masonic building. Work on the new building was begun in 1870, I believe, and The Hall came back into its own.²

My only contact with the famous old Philharmonic Society was at the courthouse somewhere about this time, when I was a small boy I went with my sister, Jennie, who was a member, one night to a rehearsal, when she was a "pinch hitter" for somebody who was absent in singing "Sweet Spirit, Hear My Prayer," while Nettie Wooten stole up from behind with a dagger.

SAXBY'S BAND PROBABLY PLAYED

I wonder what music they had on that eventful night of May 15, 1870—Saxby's band from Memphis is my guess, for he was the one best bet in Memphis then, and came here often. He got to know these boys well, and Egbert Jones told me that years afterwards at some public event in Memphis, Saxby recognized and pressed forward to greet him and talked over the old days.³

And such glad, sweet old days they were, and satisfying. They knew how to live and get the best out of life with what they had. Some of the means would appear simple or even silly to the sophisticated youth of today. But no mad "kick" of today can compare with them.

¹ The Federal government had refused the county's request for \$25,000 to replace the structure accidentally burned by Union troops in 1864. *A Vanishing America*, 68.

² See photo, *Southern Tapestry*, 87.

³ William W. Saxby, who had studied in New York and Chicago, was one of Memphis' premier musicians. In 1891, he founded the Memphis Philharmonic, but was best known for popular band concerts. At the turn of the century, crowds of up to 4,000 attended his Sunday afternoon concerts in Overton Park. See information and photos in John E. Harkins, *Memphis & Shelby County: Metropolis of the American Nile* (Oxford, Miss.: Guild Bindery Press, 1982): 14, 108-109.

Saxby's band used to play a double header when they came for a ball here, an afternoon concert with brass instruments on the square, which was attended by most of the populace, and the conventional orchestra for the ball. A wise guy, was Saxby, in attracting and holding human interest.

STRANGE FRIENDSHIPS RECALLED

Two names on the invitation, Robert W. Fort and H. S. Dancy, recall some of the strange friendships that existed in those days. Utterly dissimilar in tastes and temperament, yet their friendship bound them as with hoops of steel; and Mr. Dancy could confer no higher honor upon his first-born, the present Sheriff Dancy, than to name him Robert Fort.⁴

The names on the program were those of representative men in the business, professional and social life of the community; two of them, Henry C. Myers and Maj. George M. Govan, were to become secretaries of state in Mississippi.

The majority of them had been soldiers of the Confederacy, three of them riding with Morgan. Three, Col. H. W. Walter, Maj. Brodie S. Crump and Robert Fort, were to go out in the yellow fever of 1878.

Of all the names listed, including the bride and bridegroom, only one is living—Henry S. Dancy.

⁴ Chesley Smith recalled that old Mr. Henry Dancy's little store stood in a building on the west side of the square now taken over by an expansion of the Bank of Holly Springs. "Every time we passed his store he would call us in to give us a few ginger snaps, the best I ever tasted. Sometimes we would buy peppermint stick candy from him. But we knew that every time we passed he would give us ginger snaps. Cornelia Baird says she used to go on the other side of the square because she didn't like the ginger snaps." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 94.

6.

70 COUPLES WEDDED HERE, DECEMBER 1871.

"Our People Seem to Have a Perfect Mania for Marrying," Was the Comment of *The Independent South*, Old Holly Springs Newspaper.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss (July 17, 1941). It was December instead of June brides in December 1871, according to another Holly Springs paper Bunk Jones loaned me—*The Independent South* of January 4, 1872. Cupid—the rascal—seemed to have "drawed his arrow" and put down a barrage along the entire front. Just look at them—and these are not all:

Married, at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Coffeeville, Miss., Wednesday evening, Dec. 20, 1871 by the Rev. R. S. Thomas, Selden Fant and Nannie B. Williamson. (Parents of L. G. Fant, Sr.)

Attendants—Jas. T. Fant and Maggie Garner, J. T. Garner and Helen Fant, Perrine H. Fant¹ and Esther Rayburn, Francis Herron and Rose Clayton.

Married, at the Presbyterian Church in Holly Springs, on Thursday evening, December 21, by the Rev. John N Waddell, Chancellor of the University of Miss., Arthur Fant and Lizzie Anderson. (Mrs. Fant, who was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Anderson, still lives here.)²

Attendants—Jas. T. Fant and Mary Anderson, Fox Moore and Helen Fant, Selden Fant and Mrs. Selden Fant, John B. Tunstall and Cornelia Crawley, Perrine H. Fant and [Miss] Crawford Jones, W. W. Searcy and Mollie Mason.

YARBROUGH—TAYLOR

Married, at 3 o'clock Monday evening, Dec. 25, at the residence near Chulahoma of the bride's father, Greenfield F. Taylor, by the Rev.

¹ Perrine Hall Fant became an elder in the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church and later moved to Colorado.

² This was the first wedding solemnized in the newly completed Holly Springs Presbyterian Church.

E. D. Miller, Chas. G. Yarbrough and Jane Taylor.

Attendants, W. W. Searcy and Helen Suggs, H. C. Myers and Katie Walker, Egbert R. Jones and Spencer Benson, B. S. Hull and Sallie Jones, W. J. Phillips and Lovie McKie.

Married, Dec. 18, by the Rev. Wm. Shepherd, at the residence of the bride's father, near Lamar, Jon R. McLaughlin of Tennessee and Mary Andrews of Marshall County.

Married, in Holly Springs, Thursday, Dec. 21, by H. A. Cooper,³ J. P., W. H. Foster and Elizabeth Taylor.

Married, in Marshall Co., on Tuesday, Dec. 26, by the Rev. Elias Jackson, George Booker Ford and Mentie Pernelia Redding.

Married in Marshall Co., by the Rev. J. W. Stein, on Wednesday, Dec. 27, S. C. Lusk and Josie G. Stamps.

Married in Marshall Co., on Tuesday, Dec. 12, By the Rev. Elias Jackson, M. W. Boswell and Sallie L. Sullivan.

Married in Marshall Co., on Wednesday, Dec. 20, by the Rev. J. H. Amacker, T. B. Hartley and Nancy King.

Married, in Marshall Co., Wednesday, Dec. 20, by the Rev. J. H. Amacker, N. A. Ellis and Mary Hartley.

³ Henry A. Cooper, a Republican after the war, held the offices of mayor of Holly Springs and sheriff of Marshall County by the appointment of Governor Adelbert Ames. His wife was an ardent Democrat, and seized every opportunity for showing her loyalty to the Democratic cause. "Reconstruction in Mississippi," 166-67.

Married, in Marshall Co., Thursday, Dec. 7, by the Rev. John Morse, John Dix and Virginia Stafford.

Married, in Marshall Co., Wednesday, Dec. 13 by the Rev. Elias Jackson, W. M. Gallagher and Sallie E. Wells.

Married, in Marshall Co., Dec. 10, by the Rev. W. M. Gordon, W. F. Wilson and Leonia L. Parker.

Married, at the residence of the bride's father, Thos. W. Raiford, in Byhalia, on Tuesday, Dec. 19, by the Rev. E. A. Norfleet, E. A. Neblett, Jr., and Nannie Raiford

Married at the residence of M. R. Payne, on the Yazoo River, Wednesday, Dec. 6, by the Rev. Mr. Christian, Henry C. Downing and Annie E. Crump.

Married at residence of bride's mother, near Early Grove, by the Rev. Mr. Bateman, J. F. Crawford and Miss Mary Rook.

SEVENTY LICENSES

"Our people seem to have a perfect mania for marrying. During the past month our circuit clerk has issued to those in desperate condition seventy marriage licenses, and the cry is still "they come!"

The free schools will open on the 8th. Chalmers Institute will be under direction of W. A. Anderson; Fénelon Hall under Jno. Creighton and Arthur Fant.

Twenty-five or thirty of our young people went to the Bluff City to see Joe Jefferson in "Rip Van Winkle." They stopped at The Peabody Hotel.

The Dramatic Association will give several classic plays during the meeting here of the Grand Masonic bodies.

A calico ball was given by the Masonic fraternity December 27 at the Masonic Hall.

The city voted Dec. 30 to take \$70,000 in stock of the Selma, Marion & Memphis Railroad only three votes being cast against it.

The Hon. Robt. Searcy Greer, one of Marshall County's most distinguished antebellum legislators, died Jan. 3 at his home (near Laws Hill or Chulahoma, I don't know which). He was father of Joe, Robt. S., Jr., and Dr. A. T. Greer, and Misses Polly and Jett Greer.

WREC's "the South's finest and one of America's best" was anticipated by sixty years—listen to the junior editor (Bud Upshaw) in this issue: The celebrated Peabody Hotel, Memphis, is *par excellence*, without a superior, and with few equals in the Southern States.¹

By the way, Bud Upshaw was "caned" in the Peabody Hotel on Christmas Day; Will H. Blaylock, representing the employees of *The Independent South*, presented him with a gold-headed cane.

PASSENGER ELEVATOR

The St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans advertises that it is the only hotel in the South with a passenger elevator.

Quiggins and Buffaloe, confectioners Oliver J. Quiggins and George W. Buffaloe—dissolve partnership; books and Quiggins at Falkenburg's old stand (first or second store east of the present Rather's Drug Store).²

Quiggins and Buffaloe occupied one side of the present Ernest Miller store³ and Dr. P. A. Willis, drugs, the other hall. Dr. Willis advertises that he is moving to the Masonic building (the north store) and George Buffaloe soon opened a confectionery in there, too.

Chas. Razall is moving his barbershop to the north side of the square (probably the old Shaw, or now, City Barber Shop), where he is prepared with a force of accomplished artists to add finishing touches to the beauty of the 'human face divine.'

Chambers and Jones have a meat market that opens every morning at 4 o'clock. I believe it was in Con Bond's present shop.

¹ For years the popular Memphis radio station had its studios in the famous hotel.

² Rather's Drug Store was located on the south side of the square at the corner of Van Dorn Avenue and South Center Street.

³ The present Graham Miller Department Store.

Gen. Henry E. Williamson is administrator of the estate of Jerome Garrett.

M. Mason and E. K. Williamson can be found at Flinn's (now The Leader).

RAILROAD ISSUED MONEY

Mississippi Central Railroad money will be bought at Sam Frank's. The road issued money during the Civil War, possibly at other times.¹

The "R. E. Lee Hat" at Oppenheimer and Gordon's.

Sam Mason advertises for sale schoolbooks as prescribed by the Board of School Directors of Marshall County.

L. C. Abbott was the Carpetbag Superintendent of Education.

Geo. M. Buchanan, sheriff and tax collector, will visit all county precincts to collect taxes.

Home talent ladies appeared in plays on the stage only after the war, and the Holly Springs Dramatic Association furnished opportunities, "but press criticism must give only initials—now guess who they were."

"Their entertainment during the holidays was a brilliant success. We feel that Miss A. as Pauline, in "The Lady of Lyons," was far toward perfection in historic excellence. Mrs. L. always ready, always at the point of quiet, mental repose that gives her action a naturalness that marks her as a lady of culture and marked ability.

¹ As a way of extending credit during the construction phase and after, the Mississippi Central, like most railroads of the era, issued its own paper money. In many states during this period almost anyone could issue promissory notes. Not until 1862 did the U. S. Government take steps to control currency, and paper money served in the South throughout the Confederate period as a vehicle of trade and commerce. The M.C.R.R. issued bills of two, three, ten and twenty dollars, and even printed notes for sums as small as five cents. The Mississippi Central bills, designed by a New Orleans engraver, featured a passenger train, and though the cut of a broad-stacked locomotive and wooden cars is likely not of actual M. C. rolling stock, the engraving gives an impression of what the road's consisto- may have looked like. A full collection may be seen at the Marshall County Historical Museum in Holly Springs. See "Old Currency," *Illinois Central Magazine* (June 1909); photo, *Southern Tapestry*, 47.

"The new star, so radiant with beauty and intelligence, Miss O. R., charmed the audience at every step, every gesture, and every enunciation. Our little friend, Miss F. B., was as natural in her department as if she had been born to act.

"Too much praise cannot be given to Mr. I. C. Levy and Mr. Heber Craft for the judicious selection and casts of the plays."²

² In 1861/62, Heber Craft erected a charming story and a half Gothic cottage at the southwest corner of what is now Stafford Drive and Craft Street. Captain and Mrs. George M. Buchanan purchased the property in 1872 and made it their home until 1896. Subsequently it went through several owners. The abandoned house was finally demolished about 1950, but the site is still called "Buchanan Hill." The iron grill work from the front porch can be seen in the Gordon Stafford house at the entrance to Johnson's Park and the Gothic front doorway in Colonsay Cottage on College Avenue. Hubert H. McAlexander to R. Milton Winter, October 24, 2002.

7.

'OL SWIMMIN' HOLES HERE IN EARLY DAYS.

The Bradley Pond, the Factory Pond, the Foundry Pond and the Tank Pond Among the Most Popular Old Places For Bathing on Hot Days Years Ago.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (June 11, 1931).¹ In spite of the springs which contributed to the city's name and were more numerous and bold in the early days than now, the boys of my time have been rather hard put for their "ol swimmin' hole." The building of the swimming pool in Holly Park several years ago has given them a better place now.²

Of all the swimming holes of my early days Bradley's Pond stood out preeminent. It was located back of Bishop Cottrell's residence and was picturesque, with a wooded bluff on one side.³

It was the cleanest pond around here, fairly deep and was frequented by young men from the square, and men and boys of the west side of town, and boys from Chalmers Institute nearby. Most of them learned to swim there.

It covered about an acre and I have seen the bank lined with people. Fed by springs the overflow helped to maintain the all-year branch that flowed this side of Rocky Mountain, now dry. There was a beautiful "hole" in this branch about 100 feet along, 15 feet wide and 3 feet deep; with white clay sides and bottom; with crystal clear water in which fish swam.

THE "FOUNDRY POND"

The "Foundry Pond" was located near the I. C. Road's section house,⁴ just north of Salem

bridge. It was built before the war to supply Jones, McIlwaine & Co.'s large foundry nearby. The company attempted to get water from a deep well, but after going down about 200 feet, and having trouble with the drill, abandoned it under the belief that there was no water beneath Holly Springs—a belief that remained until 1897 when the city's first well proved that there was an abundance.⁵

The Foundry Pond accommodated the east part of town, and as it was publicly located, and no bathing suits here in those days, was visited mostly at night.

The "Factory Pond" was smaller and nearer the railroad crossing, on the same, west, side of the railroad, but much shallower than the Foundry Pond. It originated from building the railroad in the fifties, and took its name from the wagon factory that was operated there for many years after the war.

Both ponds depended upon rainfall for water, and sometimes the latter would dry up, leaving deep cracks in the bottom. It puzzled me to know what became of the swarms of small fish in the Factory Pond that disappeared in the drought and reappeared with the fall rains.

THE "TANK POND"

The "Tank Pond" was located south of the depot, east of the railroad, by the fair grounds of the 1900's. It was also caused by the railroad bank and was shallow. Locomotives got water

rection of a "section house," out of which maintenance crews did their work.

⁵ In succeeding years, the city enjoyed an abundant supply of artesian well water, which the city fathers bragged was of superior quality. Indeed, for many years a large Coca-Cola bottling plant was headquartered in Holly Springs, ostensibly because of the superior quality of the water supply.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² The swimming pool was located in Spring Hollow. *Southern Tapestry*, 109.

³ The Cottrell house stood at the northwest corner of West Chulahoma Avenue and West Boundary Street. See *It Happened Here*, 25-26; See photo, *Southern Tapestry*, 124.

⁴ In those days railroad lines were divided into sections of track, extending several miles in either di-

from the first building of the road, from the tank, which was operated by mule power. In the eighties the I. C. Road put in a steam pump and tank near the Factory Pond, but now gets water elsewhere.¹

The pond furnished fishing for small boys and some bathing; frog-shooting was good there in later years, after the pond was covered by water lilies. Soil erosion has practically wiped out all four of these ponds.

In later years, since the advent of automobiles, parties have motored to a large hole in Coldwater Creek north of Red Banks. The water is clear and icy cold, and this has been and is the swimming hole for a section of country from Red Banks to Mt. Pleasant. The swimming pool superceded that for Holly Springs.

Bathing was not the only sport the ponds furnished. The winters used to be severer than now and skating could be frequently had for two or three weeks, some skating nearly every winter.²

Most of the skating was at the Foundry Pond, which was wider, and many skating parties were held there.

TOLL OF HUMAN LIFE

Both Bradley's and the Foundry ponds took a toll of human life.

In the early seventies Ed Tally, a youth living near Red Banks, who was visiting relatives in Holly Springs, was drowned in Bradley's pond, and it seemed as if most of the men and boys in town responded to the alarm, but too late for resuscitation. It was the first death by drowning I had ever known.

¹ Before the advent of diesel locomotives, the steam engines that pulled trains had to be supplied with water and coal at regular intervals. The more important stations were equipped with standing water tanks—hence the designation of a community as a “tank town.” Railroads were especially desirous of stopping their trains at locations where the water supply was clean and free of alkaline minerals that would clog the moving parts of the engine.

² Robert B. Alexander reported on January 1, 1863 that: “Last night was the coldest night of the year 1863. Cleared off during the night. Thermometer stood at 6 degrees below zero.”

Foundry Pond took two lives, a soldier from the United States troops camped near Salem bridge in the seventies, and in the eighties a negro houseboy³ at John S. Finley's, I believe.

The drowning of Will Compton in June, 1889, in Lumpkin's mill pond south of the city, was the most impressive incident of the kind I have ever known.

Compton, who was a popular young fellow and a good swimmer, was one of a picnic party at the pond and went in diving after lunch from a boat some distance from shore, was seized with cramps and sank.

A wire from Waterford brought into service every available horse and vehicle in Holly Springs to carry men to the scene. They were joined by men from Waterford and surrounding country and the pond was dragged all night.

The body was located next day by the late Tom Rylee with a fishing rod from a boat. A man named Weisinger, I believe, dived and brought the body up. The rigor had left it in the position of a swimmer.

³ The employment of male house servants was well known in Marshall County in the years after emancipation.

8.

IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS IN HOLLY SPRINGS 63 YEARS AGO.

Files of Old Papers of 1869 Tell of Numerous Events and Incidents of Unusual Interest.—Building of Railroads and Reconstruction.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (December 15, 1932). I am indebted to another old friend, "Bunk" Jones, of Route 1, Red Banks, for several old copies of *The Reporter* and *The Independent South*.

Both papers were founded in the turbulent years following the War of the Sixties, hence the name *Independent South*.

Both papers were founded by Jim Ballard, a restless newspaperman who founded a lot of papers and didn't stay long with any. *The Reporter* was founded in 1865 and *The Independent South* in 1869 or 1870.

The oldest of the copies was *The Holly Springs Reporter*, September 3, 1869; Vol. 4, No. 46; Columbus Barrett, proprietor. It is a four-page, seven-column paper, and has much interesting news.

Mr. Barrett came from Mt. Pleasant and married Miss Sophronia Falconer, daughter of Judge and Mrs. Thomas Falconer. Judge Falconer had been an editor, himself.

BUILDING OF RAILROAD

Railroad connection between the Mississippi to the Atlantic was agitated long before the war and resulted in the building of the Memphis & Charleston Road by Grand Junction. Holly Springs, ambitious and progressing, had tried to swing it this way.

They were game, however, and after the war heartily espoused the proposed Memphis, Holly Springs & Selma Road, of which Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, the Confederate cavalry leader, then of Memphis, but formerly of eastern Marshall County,¹ was chief promoter.

¹ Forrest spent part of his youth in the Salem vicinity, living with his uncle, Orin Beck. *Southern Tapestry*, 27.

My mother's cousin, Maj. Minor Meriwether, was chief engineer and my father, Maj. Belton Mickle, was assistant engineer. Work was begun on both ends and the roadbed was graded to Holly Springs. Marion, Ala., was the eastern terminus, and twenty miles of the road was constructed [from Memphis] westward and operated.

For lack of men the road fell through, and not until 1884 was the line from Memphis to Holly Springs constructed; under a new company and different name and routed to Birmingham.

Enterprising citizens of Byhalia and neighborhood are to give a barbecue September 10, 1869 in the interest of the road.

The Mississippi Central R. R., was still functioning—now I. C. Road.

WAR RAVAGES REPAIRED

Ravages of the war were being repaired and Crump & Roberts are building a two-story brick addition (now Mrs. Isom Jones). The firm was dissolved later. W. A. Roberts and Jas. M. Anderson going to the new firm of Roberts, Anderson & Chew. Scruggs, Hull & Finley occupied the new building.

Turner H. Lane is to build a two-story brick north of the Masonic Temple. It was occupied later by Roberts, Anderson & Chew (now by Wright & Robinson). It occupied the site of the livery stable, destroyed in Van Dorn's raid.²

Married—In Christ Church, Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock, by the Rev. W. M. Pettus, Henry S. Dancy and Miss Mary J. Jones, daughter of Jasper Jones Esq., all of Holly Springs. Attendants: Hannibal Jones and Miss Cornelius

² These firms were located on the east side of the square.

Dancy, Robert F. Fort and Miss Ve Wooten, **Willie Dancy** and Miss Sallie Jones, Watson Mason and Miss Bettie Withers, Robert A. McWilliams and Miss Cornelia Crawley, Willie A. Jones and Miss Helen Craft, Beaty Hill and Miss Minnie Walter, James T. Fant and Miss Mittie Manning.

Supper at the home of Jasper Jones followed the ceremony and later a dance at the home of Heber Craft Esq.

Virginia Keeble, daughter of John W. and Bennie H. Keeble, fourteen miles southeast of Holly Springs, died August 23.

Capt. John Albright, aged 85, of North Mt. Pleasant, died August 13, and his wife, Frances J. Albright, 56, August 23.

CHALMERS INSTITUTE CHANGE

Wm. A. Anderson, "Uncle Ally" to his old pupils, had acquired Col. G. M. Edgar's interest in Chalmers Institute, and the firm is changed to Walkup & Anderson. It was an old school; John M. Anderson, who died in 1915, aged 95, having attended it. Mr. Walkup came here from Mt. Pleasant.

"Franklin Female College and Fénelon Hall, united in one great Protestant-Catholic School," will be opened by Prof. William Clark and the Rev. H. H. Paine; Prof. Clark having transferred his school known as Fénelon Hall (now residences of Mrs. Rosa Tyler and Con Bonds)¹ to Franklin College, one of the oldest and most popular Female Schools in the South.

Bethlehem Academy, a Roman Catholic school for girls, conducted by the Sisters of Charity from Nazareth, Ky., had first opened soon after the war in the large colonial mansion at the south end of Memphis Street, subsequently Judge Orlando Davis' residence, and owned and occupied by Jim Arrington when it was destroyed by fire in 1923.²

¹ These houses were located on College Avenue, east of Old St. Joseph's Church.

² This is the house at 105 E. Hamilton Avenue, now known as "Hamilton Place," and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Clanton, where the road through town turned west briefly before resuming its southward course. Built in 1840, the Mason Place was the first Holly Springs home of William F. Mason, a builder of the Mississippi Central Railroad. The house later was

They had just acquired the Dr. Pointer Place, large acreage, brick colonial home, grand forest trees—the most beautiful place on Salem Avenue. It is now known as the oil mill lot. They were adding a large three-story frame building, with chapel and schoolroom on the ground floor, and the two upper stories as dormitories.

The part the sisters took in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878 is an oft-told story.

ST. THOMAS HALL REVIVED

The Rev. P. G. Sears, then rector of Christ Church, now of Houston, Texas, bought the property in the early nineties, when the sisters moved away, and revived St. Thomas Hall. The buildings were destroyed by fire around Christmas 1898.

Hours for Sunday services at the Protestant Churches then were: Sunday school "8 1/2" o'clock, morning services 10 1/2 o'clock, evening, 8 o'clock.³ The Rev. E. D. Miller was pastor

occupied by his son Carrington Mason. Originally built in the popular Federal style of architecture, the house was enlarged in the 1850s with fluted Greek columns across the front, making it the city's first grand Greek Revival structure. After the house served Bethlehem Academy, it was owned by Dr. S. D. Hamilton and his family as a residence. In 1920, the house burned, and in its reconstruction the upper story and Greek columns were removed. Chesley Smith recalled the house in the 1920s: "A twangy square piano on which we banged was in the large upstairs hall....On the triple landing, triple windows provided a grand view of the woods and fields [to the south] which are now occupied with streets and houses....On the stormy night when lightning struck the house setting it afire, Judge C. L. Bates and his wife Belle came over to our house to sleep. The first story was spared by the fire and it was made into a one story house." The house was damaged by fire again and assumed more or less its present appearance when it was remodeled. Mason Avenue which runs east and west in front of the house and Hamilton Street which runs along the west side of the house to the South, preserve a memory of the families who have lived here. *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 92-93; *It Happened Here*, 57; *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 50-51; see photos in *Southern Tapestry*, 118; *Mississippi Valley Architecture*, 92.

³ Because Sunday school and divine service were longer than at present (sermons were at least one hour in length), an interval allowed participants to rest between services. Belle Strickland speaks in her diary of coming home between Sunday school and church. Many of the children did. She recorded an interesting

of the Baptist Church,¹ the Rev. E. E. Hamilton the Methodist, the Rev. H. H. Paine the Presbyterian. Judge R. S. Stith was lay reader at Christ Church, which had no rector then.

Good old Father Wise, the best beloved Roman Catholic priest who ever lived here, was pastor at St. Joseph's Church. He had a much larger congregation than now and services were adjusted to various needs: Sundays: masses were said at 7 and 10 a.m., catechism 2 1/2" in the

instance on July 31, 1864: "We went to Sunday school. Miss Clemmie Clapp heard my class. I wish Miss Mary Paine would come. She has not been there for seven or eight months. When we came home and started to church we met all the people coming from church because Mr. Paine said that the Yankees were expected and he would not preach. We did not think that they would come and went to the Episcopal Church." See *Civil War Women*, 12.

¹ One of the important ministerial names in the formative history of Holly Springs, the Rev. E. D. Miller represented a new generation of Baptist ministers, in that he was quite well educated. A native of Ohio, with forebears who had been Baptist ministers, Miller was a graduate of Georgetown College (1854), coming to Marshall County, three years later, where he married Margaret Ford, a Virginian who was visiting her brother at Ford's Pond (now Spring Lake—the center of Wall Doxey Park, a few miles south of Holly Springs). Before the war, Miller farmed and was pastor of the Holly Springs Baptist Church. During Reconstruction, he conducted services without salary, taught school and was the county's first superintendent of education. His little congregation worshiped in a pretty clapboard building on South Market Street for thirty years until his retirement in 1888. At the time of his retirement, Mrs. Belle Strickland Bates, the church clerk, penned these words about her pastor: "He has been with us in our prosperity and in our adversity, in our joys and in our sorrow. In him we have unbounded confidence." Mrs. Miller died a victim of the yellow fever, September 17, 1878. See *History of the First Baptist Church of Holly Springs, Mississippi*, 4-10.

evening (we said evening then)² and vespers "4 1/2" o'clock.³

It is probable the Methodist Church was being remodeled and the present front and spire added, as their services were held at the Baptist Church 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays, and at the Presbyterian Church the 2nd. Sunday school and Thursday prayer meetings were held, in the Baptist Church. Baptist and Presbyterian services were temporarily adjusted to accommodate the Methodist. Before the front was added to the Methodist Church a broad flight of steps swept up to the auditorium.⁴

A revival has been in progress at Chulahoma Methodist Church, the Rev. G. B. Baskerville pastor, for three weeks.⁵

BIG TOURNAMENT GIVEN

A tournament, witness by 700 or 800 people, was given August 25 by the citizens of the neighborhood at the Wash Taylor Place, three

² Southern nomenclature sometimes needs explanation even to the present generation of Southerners. In Mr. Mickle's day, "dinner," referred to the midday meal ("supper" was the day's final repast) and the word "evening" described just not only the hours of twilight and "early candle-lighting" but the afternoon, as well. This usage was a vestige of the planter culture of Virginia, where those of the privileged classes liked to give the impression that time was theirs to while away. Work was done in the forenoon; and the "evening" was given to leisure. See David Hackett Fischer, *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1989): 373.

³ St Joseph's parish was diminished after the Civil War by the removal of the railroad shops, where many of the members were employed, to Water Valley, Mississippi.

⁴ The addition to the front of the church, including a steeple and balcony for the sanctuary, changed the appearance of the Greek Revival structure completed in 1849. The addition, in Italianate style, made use of round windows and arched doorways, as opposed to the severely rectangular lines of the windows and doors in the older part of the structure. The result, however, was a harmonious whole.

⁵ The Rev. G. Booth Baskerville was a cousin of the Strickland family in Holly Springs. Belle Strickland wrote of hearing him preach: "Tuesday, May 26th 1868. Cousin Booth Baskerville was going to preach, and I was very anxious to hear him. Mr. Fant went with Mrs. Leak and I, and we were not too late. He preached a splendid sermon, and a very short one." *Civil War Women*, 198.

miles north of Red Banks.¹ John R. Goodwin acted as herald, Lea Braden was first prize and crowned Miss Fannie Phillips first maid of honor,² Thomas Hancock won third and crowned Miss Sallie Goodwin second maid.

The Misses Reed will resume their private school September 13. They were aunts of the late W. T. Ross, and their home and school stood just south of the Ross residence.³

Charles Drake, mayor, advertises that he is prepared to furnish contract between employers and freedmen for labor.

J. B. Mattison, hardware, who occupied the present J. A. Miller store, was the largest advertiser, a column. Oppenheimer & Gordon followed with a 3-inch five-column ad on the front page.

Masonic bodies only appear in the lodge directory—Holly Springs Lodge No. 35, Jas. T. Fant, W. M., Columbus Barrett, Sec; Wilson R. A Chapter E. W. Upshaw, H. P., W. H. Bishop, Sec; Knights Templar, W. S. Featherson, E. C.; P. A. Willis, Recorder.

Page *The Literary Digest* voters!—“As you are passing by, call in at Marett’s and get a glass of delicious lager beer.”

¹ This is the home now known as “Summer Trees,” built after Washington Sanders Taylor’s marriage to Ann Elizabeth Park in 1853. Beautifully restored, it is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Cowles Jr. See information and photos in *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 136; *Mississippi Scenes*, 124-25; *Southern Tapestry*, 48, 162.

² Belle Strickland spoke of Miss Fannie Phillips in her diary, recalling their schooldays together. On Monday, February 3, 1868, she wrote that, “I have been going to school regularly ever since to Miss Lizzie and Mr. Clark. Last ten months Miss Lizzie and Mr. Clark taught together and I went to them but Miss Lizzie did not teach the next session and Miss Lucilla Reed took her place. I went to school there last five months and commenced studying algebra, which is very interesting. I think Miss Lizzie commenced teaching yesterday again and I started to her on the third of February. I came to school and found only one scholar, Miss Fannie Phillips, and we selected our desk and are sitting together. We did not say any lessons but staid there and read until nearly one o’clock and then went home to dinner. I returned in the after-noon and ciphered in algebra until four o’clock and was dismissed.” *Civil War Women*, 139-40.

³ This house was located at the corner of North Memphis Street and Falconer Avenue.

W. J. L. Holland, who had not yet left the ancestral plantation to become editor of *The Reporter*, advertises blue Berkshire pigs for sale.

9.

HISTORY OF ST. THOMAS HALL, EARLY HOLLY SPRINGS SCHOOL.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (September 3, 1931).¹ Through the courtesy of my friend, Mrs. Egbert R. Jones, Sr., I have the loan of a copy of the catalogue of St. Thomas Hall, session of 1897-1898.² The session of 1998-1899 opened the following year, but the school was destroyed by fire shortly after Christmas 1898, and was never rebuilt.³

The original St. Thomas Hall was founded in January 1844, by the Rev. Francis L. Hawks, D. D., formerly rector of St. Thomas Church, Episcopal, New York City, and afterwards rector of Calvary Church, New York City, and Grace Church, Baltimore.

Dr. Hawks, I believe, was a native of North Carolina. His daughter married Pugh Govan of Old Salem neighborhood, and their daughter, Mary Pugh Govan, married R. E. Chew of Holly Springs. Ralph Chew of Memphis is their son.

For reasons of health, Dr. Hawks came South and accepted the rectorship of Christ Church, Holly Springs, and shortly afterwards founded St. Thomas Hall. It was located in what is now known as Sowell's field, just across Salem bridge, to the right.

The first faculty was composed of the Rev. F. L. Hawks, D. D., president and professor of Eng-

lish literature; John Q. Bradford, A. M., Latin and Greek; Lieut. Claudius W. Sears (U. S. Military Academy), mathematics; Thomas K. Wharton,⁴ French and German.

⁴ Thomas K. Wharton had worked with Francis Hawks in New York and came with him to Holly Springs, after which he again moved with Hawks to New Orleans, where he lived for many years. Wharton's diary has been published and is an important source for the nineteenth century history of the Crescent City. By his account, Wharton became associated with Hawks in the operation of a school called St. Thomas Hall in the village of Flushing on Long Island, New York. "Here I spent about two years when the Revd. Francis L. Hawks commenced the cognate Institution of St. Thomas' Hall at the Village of Flushing and I was induced to join him. It was an unprecedented reputation for awhile, and the Doctor's educational abilities shone out in all their strength, but his financial talents were at fault and in April 1843 the whole concern was in the hands of his assigners, and all my savings were absorbed in the failure....Dr. Hawks still retained the rectorship of St. Thomas Church in New York, and after the failure at Flushing took a house for his family in Brooklyn Heights where I joined them in May 1843. Dr. Hawks' impulsive nature was chafed and fretted by his pecuniary difficulties at Flushing, and in his despondency he longed for the South. Accordingly in the summer and autumn of 1843 he and I made a tour of exploration which resulted in our commencing in partnership an University at Holly Springs, Mississippi. On the 2nd. October, 1843, we returned to Brooklyn from our Southern journey and then made arrangements for entering upon our new undertaking. I...joined Dr. Hawks & family at Holly Springs on the 1st January 1844. Our project went on bravely. The Doctor's peculiar talents again found a field for successful action. But unfortunately he must needs let himself be proposed for the Bishopric of Mississippi, which gave rise to new difficulties as he met with determined and successful opposition in convention on the ground of his former financial embarrassments, tho' I who knew the circumstances best have no doubt that they spring from a want of judgment and in no respect from dishonest purpose. This new vexation made the Doctor uneasy again, and he became languid in his efforts at Holly Springs....Early in 1845 Dr. Hawks was induced to visit New Orleans with an offer of the rectorship of Christ's Church in that city, and an opportunity of founding an

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² In his chapter on education in Holly Springs, William Baskerville Hamilton declared that "the history of the town of Holly Springs might well be said to be the history of her educational endeavors." Hamilton, 68. Indeed the writer of a newspaper article in 1859 about Holly Springs declared that "the cause of education seems to have received much attention and the schools rank among the most prominent of their kind...on which account many wealthy planters reside here solely for the education of their children." For this reason, apologists for the town liked to speak of Holly Springs, with its two boarding schools for boys and two for girls, as "the Athens of the South."

³ See *Southern Tapestry*, 85.

Lieut. Sears became a brigadier general in the Confederate army, and after the war was professor of mathematics in the University faculty, and moved to Oxford. His son, the Rev. P. G. Sears, was the rector of Christ Church, Holly Springs, 1889-1900, and is now in Houston, Texas.

I believe the rector of Christ Church was ex-officio president, and it was a military school, under the auspices of the Episcopal Church.

CHANGES IN FACULTY

In 1845-1846, the Rev. David C. Page was president; Henry Whitehorn, Latin and Greek; Daniel F. Wright, mathematics.

Henry Whitehorn was president from 1847 to 1850.¹ From 1850 to 1859 the presidents were: the Rev. Dr. Colton, the Rev. James M. Rogers and the Rev. Dr. J. H. Ingraham.

University that would make ample amends for the position we resigned in Mississippi. So he impressed me, and in May I paid a short visit to New Orleans where his family had already arrived and he had entered upon his new charge. The prospects seemed favorable enough and I returned to wind up our affairs at Holly Springs, which I did very favorably. Spent the summer there, and on the 19th. Octr. was married by Dr. Hawks to the eldest daughter of Judge Huling of Holly Springs. In December I went with my wife to New Orleans and took rooms for the winter at Mrs. Cornell's in Camp Street. In the meantime Judge Huling sold his cotton plantation, and purchased a sugar estate in the Parish of Plaquemines fifty-two miles below the City of New Orleans, to which he removed that winter. Dr. Hawks' University scheme all fell to the ground, and he confined himself in a very short time to his rectory which he resigned again with his usual facility in a couple of years and went back to New York. In the meantime I gradually reverted back to the occupation in which I commenced life, architecture, which I was again led into from having made the designs for Christ's Church New Orleans during the last summer I spent in Holly Springs..." (The church was built in 1845 from Wharton's drawings.) *Queen of the South: New Orleans, 1853-1862: The Journal of Thomas K. Wharton* (New Orleans: The Historic New Orleans Collection, 1999): 34.

¹ A. M. Clayton remembered Whitehorn as "a graduate of one of the English universities, and the best classical scholar we have ever had amongst us. His father held a plantation in the Island of Jamaica, and was ruined by the Act of Emancipation there; thence the son came to the South in pursuit of fortune." *Centennial Address*, 9.

In 1859 the organization was: the Rev. Dr. J. H. Ingraham (author of *The Prince of the House of David*), president and English; William A. Clark, Latin, and Greek; Lieut. Claudius Sears, mathematics.

The school was considered one of the best in the South and some noted men of the South were educated there. Its cadets gave a good account of themselves in the Confederacy and in civil life after the war, among them were: Maj. Gen. Edward C. Walthall, Gen. James R. Chalmers, Chief Justice H. H. Chalmers, Col. Alex H. Chalmers, Gen. C. H. Mott, Capt. Walter A. Goodman, Col. James L. Autry, Gen. Daniel C. Govan, Sec. of State George M. Govan, Maj. Andrew R. Govan, Judge James M. Greer, Howard Falconer, Sec. of State Kinloch Falconer, William and Stagy Watson,² Roger Barton Esq.

DESTROYED DURING THE WAR

The buildings³ were destroyed during the war.⁴ In 1893 the school was revived by the Rev. P. G. Sears, rector of Christ Church, and the property now known as the oil mill lot was bought from the Sisters of Nazareth (Roman Catholic) who had opened a seminary for girls, under the name, Bethlehem Academy.⁵

² Sons of J. W. C. and Catherine Davis Watson who died in the Civil War. William Taylor Watson was killed April 10, 1863 at the First Battle of Franklin, Tennessee and John Staige Davis Watson died May 28, 1864, the victim of a mis-aimed bullet. See *Civil War Women*, 135.

³ Located out on Salem Road past the present bridge over the railroad tracks.

⁴ An unsuccessful attempt was made to reopen the school in 1867. *Southern Tapestry*, 69.

⁵ The Rev. Peter Gray Sears had come to Holly Springs in 1889. A popular rector, an extensive remodeling of the church had gone forward under his leadership. Thinking he had accomplished his goals, he resigned to go to Meridian. The vestry protested, and finally, after a mass meeting of citizens, supported by the clergy of other congregations, he was induced to stay. He then determined to revive the school, of which his father, General Claudius Wistar Sears, had been commandant, and a new St. Thomas Hall served for five years, until its building was destroyed. Most of the money which purchased the Pointer Place for the school came from a legacy of forty shares of stock willed to Christ Church by Kate McCorkle (Mrs. Frank W.) Dancy. Charles N. Dean, "History of Christ Church" (unpub. typescript, dated in the 1970s): 16.

The property had been known as the Pointer Place, and was the antebellum home of Dr. Pointer, a large two-story brick colonial, situated in a magnificent grove of oaks. The Sisters of Nazareth added a three-story frame dormitory.¹

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¹ See information and photos in *A Vanishing America*, 62; Miller-Smith, 60-61; and *Southern Tapestry*, 34, 100.

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11.

THESPIANS AN EARLY HOLLY SPRINGS CLUB.

"The Amphionic Minstrel Club" and "the Three O's" Also Among the Organizations That Existed in This City Long Ago.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (April 30, 1931).¹ Club life seems to have always been attractive except in the early days when pioneer problems engaged the attention of society.

The Thespians, a dramatic club, is the earliest club in Holly Springs that I can get history of. It flourished in the fifties and was composed of men only, as it was considered highly improper for ladies to appear on the stage. There were professional actresses, of course.

Feminine parts in the Thespians were assumed by John Chew, a black-eyed, handsome young man, (father of my boyhood friend, the Rev. John M. Chew of Newburg, N. Y.); Sam Benton, smooth shaven and a perfect blonde, who later won fame and a soldier's death battling for the Confederacy.²

I am at a loss to know what these lady-men did about their beards, then so popular. Shaved, probably, and then went about for several weeks with raggedy faces.

There was a Mr. Thompson, whose histrionic ability was such that in spite of a flat nose and pasty complexion he was often cast for the leading lady.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² The Rev. John Reynolds, president of Corpus Christi College, the man whose idea it was to make the new translation that became known as the King James Version, never quite forgave himself for consenting to play the part of a girl in a college comedy staged in honor of the queen. Years later, quoting Deuteronomy 22:5 ("Neither shall a man put on a woman's garments, for all that do so are an abomination to the Lord"), the Puritan leader raked himself over for it in a treatise against stage plays, which he condemned as corrupting to youth." Benson Bobrick, *Wide as the Waters: The Story of the English Bible and the Revolution It Inspired* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001): 228-229.

The "ladies" often borrowed freely from the wardrobes of feminine friends for their costumes, though tradition has it Mr. Chew had his made by the Misses Stewart, then as in my early days, the leading milliners here.

Richard L. (Dick) Watson was a tragedian of no mean ability, and was later a member of the post-bellum Holly Springs Dramatic Association. Among other members were James L. Autry, William M. Strickland, Henry, Addison, and Heber Craft, James T. Fant, Howard Falconer and H. W. Walter. Eton Govan, then a small boy, took the child's part.

The Amphionic Minstrel Club was started in 1860 and revived for a time after the war. Charles S. Mattison, Frank Mattison's uncle, led the orchestra with his sweet violin.

Some other members were Charles Brackin, brother of the late Mrs. F. A. Lucas, Charles Estep, George M. Govan, Heber Craft and "Hannie" Robinson.

"The Three O's" was a married men's club organized after the war and carried on with nearly as much mystery as the Ku Klux. A member would ask his wife to prepare a supper that night, but he alone admitted the guests at the door and none other saw them. They were "jolly dogs" and had a good time.

It was at Mr. Jim Scruggs' home, now C. C. Stephenson's residence, I think, that the wives, led by Mrs. Henry E. Williamson, descended on them and wrested the secret. Three O's meant "Old Owls Out." Among the members were Gen. H. E. Williamson, William Crump, Col. F. A. Lucas, I. C. Levy, Robert McGowan, James M. Scruggs, Heber Craft and James M. Crump.

12.

FIRST LITERARY CLUB THE PHILOMATHESIAN.

This Society and the Philharmonic Organized In Holly Springs Right After the Civil War.—Dramatic Association Formed Later.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (May 7, 1931).¹ In this, my second installment of club life in Holly Springs I must acknowledge my indebtedness to Mrs. Daisy Wright for the loan of copious notes on club life in Holly Springs, compiled by her mother, the late Mrs. Fielding A. Lucas. Also again to my kind friend, Mrs. Helen Craft Anderson, and I draw of course, on my own memory for some portions of the story.

With the readjustment of things within the first few years after the war three clubs were organized—the Philomathesian Society, the Philharmonic Society and the Holly Springs Dramatic Association. The first two were organized in 1866, the latter in 1874.

The Philomathesian Society was the first literary club in Holly Springs, so far as I can learn, and also the first with lady members. No refreshments were served at club meetings in those days.

Maj. William M. Strickland was president and Henry M. Paine secretary. Among other members were the Rev. J. T. Pickett, R. G. Robinson, James T. Fant, Howard and Kinloch Falconer, Henry M. Anderson² of St. Louis, A. Stewart Marye of Virginia, Mrs. Sallie Govan Billups, Miss Bettie Govan.

Miss Mary Paine, Mrs. William M. Strickland, Mrs. Rosa B. Tyler, Mrs. Kate Freeman and her daughter Miss Cary Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. William Clark, James A. Paine, Dr. F. B. Shuford, Maj. and Mrs. Addison Craft and Mr. and Mrs. Heber Craft.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² He was a professor in one of the local schools after the Civil War. *Prodigal Daughter*, 20.

It lasted about two years; there was no course of study but programs were arranged for each meeting, and some fine original poems and essays were written. The name [denoting lovers of knowledge] was suggested to Mrs. Freeman by the Hon. L. Q. C. Lamar.³

The brilliant Sherwood Bonner (Mrs. Kate Bonner McDowell) was one of its shining lights.⁴

The Philharmonic Society was of course devoted to music, and was the first and only club, other than the present Elks Club, to have quarters. These were located in the H. C. Corey photograph gallery over what is now Mobley's shop.

They bough a fine Knabe⁵ piano and worked hard on Schiller's *Song of the Bell*, which was given in the auditorium of the unfinished Presbyterian Church.

³ Hubert McAlexander noted that "these families formed a definite circle, one that cohered even more strongly because of the bond of wartime suffering and post-war confusion. The members of this group mutually sustained each other, and in their insistence on preserving an intellectual and cultural life amid a land in ruins, they probably succeeded in creating a far more stimulating environment than the one that had existed before the war." *Prodigal Daughter*, 19. Still, not every meeting was scintillating. Thirteen-year-old Belle Strickland noted in her diary, March 11, 1868, that "The Philo was going to meet at our house, but I was too sleepy and tired to sit up and so I retired. I don't believe many came though, and there was no meeting." *Our Pen Is Time*, 150-51.

⁴ Hubert McAlexander gives a fine summary of the club life of this period. See *Prodigal Daughter*, 3-21.

⁵ A Memphis, Tennessee piano manufacturer. Several old-fashioned "square" pianos from this builder may still be seen in Holly Springs.

A suitable theater was lacking as the Masonic Hall had been destroyed during Van Dorn's raid and was not re-built until about 1870.¹

Their most pretentious effort, perhaps, was "Belshazzar's Feast," given to a capacity house in the Methodist Church, Mrs. Lucas says in her notes.

Among those in the cast were: Mrs. Fielding A. Lucas, Mrs. Amelia Calkins,² Mrs. Kate Wal-thall Freeman, Mrs. Ruth Bonner McDowell, Mrs. James H. Watson, Miss Nannie Boling, Mrs. John S. Finley, sopranos.

Mrs. Carrington Mason, Mrs. Cornelia Dancy Govan, Mrs. Stella Craft Hill, Mrs. Helen Craft Anderson, Mrs. Sallie Walters Dunlap, contraltos.

W. A. Anderson, S. Weiner, John Calhoon, tenors; William A. Clark, Carrington Mason, John E. Anderson, H. G. Oppenheimer, bass.

Prof. F. A. Tepe, an able teacher of music at Franklin Female College, was director; a polished Frenchman and fine musician.³

After Mr. Tepe left, Mrs. Freeman hospitably offered her home and the society met there while it continued to function.

Miss Rosa May Clark (Mrs. Henry Tunstall), back from her studies in New York and a brilliant musician, joined them.

The Philharmonics did much to develop local talent and cultivate a taste for music in the community.

Two outstanding members come to my mind, Mrs. Kate Freeman, who carried on as director of

the Philharmonic after Mr. Tepe left, and also as organist and director of Christ Church choir, and did so much for music in Holly Springs. The choir attained a name that was not confined to the city.

Mrs. Lucas possessed a grand voice, and was a member of the society and of the choir. Her talent was, I am firmly convinced, consecrated to God and her fellowman, and she gave freely of it.

¹ Mickle alludes to the rule—rigidly enforced in those days by all churches—that the "audience room" or sanctuary could be used for no purpose other than divine service. Thus, in 1889, for example, the Presbyterian elders refused to allow their church to be used for a meeting of the Women's Christian Temperance Union—even though most of its members then supported restrictions upon the sale and use of intoxicating liquors.

² Mrs. D. C. Calkins. The couple came to Holly Springs after the Civil War.

³ In the 1860 census, Tepe gave his birthplace as Wurtemburg, Germany. He is buried in Hill Crest Cemetery. See *Civil War Women*, 132.

13.

ROSTER IS FOUND OF PHILHARMONIC CLUB.

**Little Treasurer's Book of Old Time Musical Society of This City
Carefully Preserved by the Late Mrs. Helen Craft Anderson.**

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (April 28, 1932).¹ Some months ago I wrote two stories about Holly Springs Clubs before the after the War of the Sixties. Prominent among these was the Philharmonic Society, an organization devoted to music.

The society was organized in the late sixties, and it is well to preserve the names of members, and from the little treasurers' book, which Miss Lizzie Craft recently gave me, preserved by the late Mrs. Helen Craft Anderson, I am enabled to give most of them.

They were: W. A. Anderson, John E. Anderson, Miss Kate Bonner (Sherwood Bonner), Miss Ruth Bonner, Miss Nannie Boling, Mr. and Mrs. Baker, Miss Stella Craft, Mrs. D. C. Calkins, Miss Helen Craft, William Clark, Miss Ada Connally.

Miss Cornelia Dancy, Mrs. Kate Freeman, Robert W. Fort, Mr. Hesse, Miss Crawford Jones, Mrs. F. A. Lucas, Miss Sallie Lea, Samuel Mason, Watson Mason, Miss Jennie Mickle, Henry S. Oppenheimer, O. J. Quiggins, Dr. A. B. Ross, Miss Minnie Walter, Prof. Watts, Mrs. James H. Watson.

Only two are living, so far as I know, John E. Anderson of Holly Springs and Miss Jennie Mickle, now Mrs. W. H. Anderson of Thonotosassa, Fla.

Of the unmarried ladies given, Miss Kate Bonner became Mrs. Edward McDowell; Miss Ruth Bonner, Mrs. Daivid McDowell; Miss Nannie Boling, Mrs. (Dr.) Lea Stephenson;² Miss Stella Craft, Mrs. W R. B. (Bate) Hill; Miss He-

len Craft, Mrs. W. A. Anderson; Miss Cornelia Dancy, Mrs. Pugh Govan.

Miss Sallie Lea, Mrs. (Col.) John Calhoon; Miss Jennie Mickle, Mrs. W. H. Anderson; Miss Minnie Walter, Mrs. Henry C. Myers. I do not recall whom Miss Ada Connally married.

I do not recall who Mr. and Mrs. Baker were. William Clark, when I knew him was head of Franklin Female College, and was father of Mrs. Mamie Wright of Atlantic City, the late Mrs. R. H. Tunstall, Will Clark and Mrs. Arthur Gholsom; Robert W. Fort was brother of Mrs. Chesley Daniel and the late Henry C. Fort; Mr. Hesse was in business here and I believe he sang in the Christ Church choir.

Watson Mason was brother of the late Mrs. W. A. Jones, and with his brother George (now of Memphis) was in the hardware business. Samuel Mason had a bookstore in the old mayor's office.³ Henry Oppenheimer had a store where Louie Slayden is now. He studied medicine and became a physician in New York City.

Oliver J. Quiggins had a store here; his son Tom Quiggins lives here. Dr. A. B. Ross was a dentist, and occupied Dr. Wynne's present office. His widow, Mrs. Hettie Ross, lives here. I do not recall Prof. Watts.

The little treasurer's book for 1870-71, kept by Samuel Mason, treasurer, does not give all of the members; possibly some may have moved away or had not at that time joined.

In gathering material last year for a story of local clubs, the late Mrs. Helen Anderson called over several not mentioned in the book, and some I got from a sketch by the late Mrs. F. A.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 15, 1932).

² It was Miss Emma Boling, Nannie Boling's sister, who married Dr. Lea A. Stephenson in 1871. See p. 394.

³ This building is presently the dental office located at 152 South Memphis Street.

Lucas, viz. Prof. F. A. Tepe, teacher of music at Franklin Female College and the first director in the society; Mrs. John S. Finley, Mr. and Mrs. Carrington Mason, Mrs. Sallie Walters Dunlap, S. Weiner and Col. John Calhoon.

Incidentally, Mrs. Freeman succeeded Mr. Tepe as director, and Samuel Mason succeeded

as treasurer Robert Fort, who opened this treasurer's book.

"Belshazzar's Feast" was the most pretentious effort of the society.

14.

DRAMATIC CLUB HERE IN EARLY SEVENTIES.

Activities of Organization Ceased in 1878 and Were Never Revived.—
Thursday Club Formed in 1896 and Still Going Strong.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (May 14, 1931). In my recent story of the clubs I neglected to state that the Philomathesian Society, the first literary club here, was founded by Miss Lizzie Watson and Mrs. Cora Watson, as a pleasant way for young ladies who had studied under Miss Lizzie Watson during the War of the Sixties, to continue their literary work.¹

Miss Lizzie Watson² was the daughter of the late Judge J. W. C. and Mrs. Catherine Watson.

¹ Elizabeth Davis Watson (1832-1912), along with the other members of her family, were great Presbyterians. Unlike some, this church stressed education for girls as well as boys. Years earlier, William B. Sprague, a well-known Presbyterian, had suggested that his church ought to provide higher education as "reparations to women who had been wronged by denial of such opportunity." A century before, most Americans had been content if their daughters learned to read the Bible, repeat the catechism, and write a legible hand, but by the 1830s, most had agreed that women should be given more than rudiments of learning. Presbyterians led this work, and by the Civil War, they had founded twenty-one women's academies in the South. The Holly Springs Female Institute—established in January 1836 five months before lots were sold in the town—was not officially sponsored by any church, but local Presbyterians formed the largest group of supporters. Judge A. M. Clayton later said of the Female Institute, that: "its educational advantages, were from the earliest day, of a high order" and helped establish Holly Springs as a center of learning. Young ladies received the degree of M.P.L., presumably "Mistress of Polite Literature." The curriculum was designed "to impart a sound, substantial, liberal education, not masculine, but approximating as near to it as the peculiarities of the female intelligence will permit." The Female Institute never reopened after the Civil War—hence, Elizabeth Watson's school in her home. *Civil War Women, 183-84*; see information and photos in *Southern Tapestry*, 16, 21, 3, 64, 69, 92.

² Elizabeth Watson was a leader in Holly Springs educational endeavors. Henry Craft, a young Holly Springs attorney and a man of letters described her as "the most intellectual girl of her age that I have ever known," adding to "fine natural abilities considerable

As practically all schools were closed during the war Miss Watson taught a girls' school³ in the Watson home.¹

information attained by reading" and "conversing with the ease and at the same time with the force and elegance of a well educated gentleman." Diary of Henry Craft. Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. During the latter years of the Civil War, she alone carried on the effort to educate some of the town's children. After the war, with the town's Female Institute in ruins, a different approach was needed. Elizabeth Watson was a pioneer, and the school she conceived would have an impact. At first, the effort was undertaken as a kind of last resort, for even though the Civil War had been famously fought to preserve the *status quo ante bellum*, it served to put women forward in the lives of their communities. Because Senator Watson could not support his family due to restrictions imposed by reconstruction authorities, the family's women went to work—ostensibly to raise tuition for young James Henry Watson's planned enrollment in the University of Virginia. The school became a fixture in the community, and "Miss Lizzie" was revered for her service. For an account of her work see R. Milton Winter, *Civil War Women: The Diaries of Belle Strickland and Cora Harris Watson* (Lafayette, Calif.: Thomas-Berryhill Press, 2001); also *Prodigal Daughter*, 17-18, 20; *Prodigal Daughter*, 17; see information and photo in *Southern Tapestry*, 32, 69, 70, 82, 85, 89, 98.

³ Helen Craft Anderson gave these recollections of Miss Lizzie's school: "I dimly recall, that as a small child, I fell through the sleeper of the unfinished house which you know as the "Old Watson Building" which was being built [early 1850s] for the residence of Judge J. W. C. Watson, a fine old Virginia gentleman and Christian, who became one of Mississippi's distinguished citizens. I spent many pleasant days and hours here, with this lovely family in my childhood and girlhood; it was a home typical of all that is best in life, culture, refinement, hospitality, and religion. After the War Between the States, the intellectual daughter of the home, Miss Lizzie Watson, wishing to send her younger brothers to the University of Virginia, opened a private school in the back parlor of the home; she had lost her lover and two brothers killed in battle. There were eight in our class, 'the Seniors,' and seven in the other classes, all she could accommodate.

Mrs. Cora Watson's husband, Willie Watson, was killed in battle. She later married Sam E. Carey, and they had two daughters, Nellie and Elizabeth. She was the first president of the present Thursday Club.

Prior to the war it was considered highly improper for ladies to appear in even amateur theatricals, but the war emancipated woman to some extent, and the Holly Springs Dramatic Association, organized in the early seventies, was enriched by their talent.

The present Masonic building had just been completed on the site of the old one, and the second floor, as before, was a theater, and the association leased it and spent \$2,500 on the stage and scenery.

The scenery was painted by Gulick of the Memphis Theatre, an artist of ability. Gulick

I am the only one living in my class and so far as I can remember there are only two living of the younger set. We had one unusually brilliant member of our class, Kate Sherwood Bonner, who afterwards was a friend and protégé of the poet Longfellow, and was making a name in literature as a writer of Dialect Tales, when her untimely death when only thirty-three years old, cut short her ambitious career. She is buried here in Hill Crest Cemetery. We finished the course but had no diplomas; so I have never had the honor of having any A.B., etc. affixed to my name, but I think I am entitled to call myself the oldest alumna. Miss Watson called our little school Fénelon Hall after the distinguished Frenchman of that name. This rare teacher in the '80s built what you girls call 'Rocky Mountain,' and for some years it was a prosperous boarding school named for the famous scientist—'Maury Institute.' The name is still perpetuated in the adjoining street. Her ambition was to make her school 'the Wellesley of the South,' but the death of her mother and father and her growing deafness overthrew her plans, and in 189[0] she sold the plant to Dr. T. W. Raymond and his stockholders who changed the name to North Mississippi Presbyterian College.¹ "Address to the Alumni Society, Mississippi Synodical College" (May 1930).

¹ The Watson Place, one of the impressive mansions of Holly Springs, stood at the northwest corner of East College Avenue and North Maury Street. Like their friends the Hugh Crafts across town, the Watsons built a two-story frame house in the 1850s, surrounded by columns on the model of a Greek temple, as was the architectural fashion of the day. The Watson home was later used as a dormitory for North Mississippi Presbyterian College. It was torn down about 1945 to make way for the town's first hospital. See information and photos in Miller-Smith, 62-63; *Lost Mansions of Mississippi*, 71; and *Southern Tapestry*, 98.

would only work at night and so "loved his drams" that the men had to relay each other keep him sober. "The Hall" as completed was perhaps the finest outside of the largest cities in the state, with thirteen sets of scenery and a curtain.

MAJ. STRICKLAND PRESIDENT

The association was organized with about twenty gentlemen and fifteen ladies, others joining later. Maj. Strickland was active president, Col. H. W. Walter, honorary president, Heber Craft vice-president; I. C. Levy, manager and treasurer, James T. Fant, prompter, Kinloch Falconer, secretary and W. I. McGowan, property man.

"Everybody's Friend" was the opening play—the biggest social event since the war—and the cast were all in a funk of stage fright, with Mr. Levy aflutter with dread, until the thunderous applause which followed the final curtain proclaimed a finale. They gave plays monthly, each increasingly ambitious.

"The Colleen Bawn" came next, with Miss Anna Lee Alexander (Mrs. G. W. McKie), of Chulahoma, as the "Colleen," Mrs. Lucas as "Mrs. Hardress Cregan," and Russell Freeman as "Miles NaCoppeleen."

With decided dramatic talent and handsome in face and figure, Russell Freeman was one of the outstanding members of the association. He graduated at Annapolis, served in the navy until a few years after the Spanish-American war, when he was retired with the rank of lieutenant-commander.

The "Colleen Bawn" was repeated several years later with Miss Rosa Clark and Miss Crawford Jones in the cast, but the notes do not give the characters.

R. L. (Dick) Watson was their leading tragedian, and he appeared in the title role, "Pizarro," their next big effort.

I saw them in "Barbarossa," with Maj. Strickland in the title role and Miss Rosa Clark as the leading lady. I do not recall others of the cast.

In "Guy Mannering," Mrs. Lucas came into her own as a tragedienne in "Meg Merriles," the old gypsy woman. Brodie Hull played "Henry Bertram."

LAST PRODUCTION IN 1878

The final curtain was rung down on the old association in "Lady Audley's Secret," in the spring of 1878, for no attempt was made to re-organize after the yellow fever visitation that year had taken such heavy toll of its members.

Henry C. Myers was cast as Lord Audley, Mrs. Lucas as Lady Audley, Dick Watson as Luke, Mrs. Sam Pryor as Luke's wife, Kinloch Falconer as Robert Audley, John S. Finley as Richard Audley.

The Literary and Musical Circle was organized in 1880 by Miss Mary B. Crump, now Mrs. Ben West of Little Rock, and was composed of ladies and gentlemen. Among the presidents who served were Col. F. A. Tyler, Capt. J. B. Matisson, Col. John Calhoon, the Rev. Dr. J. N. Craig and Maj. Addison Craft. Sam Patton, later a noted architect in Chattanooga, was a member.

The German Club was organized in the eighties as a dancing club with a membership of about fifty boys and girls. It met at "The Hall," and Mrs. Lucas, who gave so much of her talents for this community, played the piano for them.¹

Some of the men were Jack and Oscar Johnson, Van and Levi Manning, Brodie Hull, Dick Topp, Ben West, Beate Athey, Hannie Robinson, Tom Kelley, Jim Hunter and Sam Patton. All have gone out except the Mannings, who live on Long Island and in Arizona, respectively.

THURSDAY CLUB FORMED

The Thursday Club organized in 1896 and still going strong, is chiefly a literary club, though they have music at all meetings. It is composed of ladies only.

Like the Philomathesian Society it had its beginning in the Watson home, then known as Maury Institute, with Miss Lizzie Watson as principal.²

¹ Olga Reed Pruitt wrote that although it was then against the rules of their church, so many Presbyterians attended, that the club became known as "the Presbyterian Dancing Class." *It Happened Here*, 95.

² See photo in *Southern Tapestry*, 98.

A number of ladies would gather there for literary discussions, and Miss Lillian McDowell, daughter of "Sherwood Bonner" McDowell, suggested the name.

It was formally organized in 1896 in the home of Mrs. W. A. Anderson, and Mrs. Cora Carey was the first president.

Present officers are: Mrs. M. A. Greene, president, Mrs. Walter Sandusky, first vice-president, Mrs. H. A. Harris, second vice-president, Miss May Randle, recording secretary, Mrs. Deadrick Smith, treasurer. Program Committee, Miss Cornelia Craft chairman, Mrs. Henry Gatewood, Mrs. Lytle Rather, Jr., Mrs. D. M. Featherston.

Mrs. Rosa Barton Tyler is honorary life president. Honorary members, Mrs. W. A. Anderson of Holly Springs and Miss Dena Baer of New York.

The Thursday Club has had the longest life of any club in the city and is as vigorous as ever. The membership is restricted in number, to avoid overcrowding, as meetings are held at members' homes.³

It has been a wonderful help in developing a high standard of literary culture in the city. Its yearbook with its quotations in prose and poetry is improving in itself.

³ Still active to-day, it is the oldest women's club in the city. See *Southern Tapestry*, 85, 116.

15.

MASONIC HALL ONE OF OLD CITY LANDMARKS.

Present Structure Replaces One Built Eighty Years Ago
and Burned Down During Van Dorn's Raid in the Sixties.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (October 23, 1930).¹ Perhaps no building in Holly Springs is so associated with the life of the town, and especially the second floor, as the Masonic building.

It has shared in the bitter and sweet of community life, its ambitions and its defeats, and touched at some time all groups regardless of race or religious connection.

This is the second Masonic building that has stood on the site, both three stories in height, with two stores below, a hall above and a lodge room in the third story.

The first, built about eighty years ago,² was blown up during Van Dorn's raid, when he destroyed about \$2,000,000 worth of military supplies of all kinds for Grant's army in its contemplated march on Vicksburg.³

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (November 20, 1930).

² The first Masonic Hall, dubbed by one wag as the town's "first skyscraper," was completed about 1855. Here plays, such as "Fortune's Frolic," "The Mistake of a Night," "She Stoops to Conquer," and "The Fall of the Alamo" were presented—all in such good taste that a local newspaper rendered its decision that "the stage was not so wicked after all." Traveling companies devoted to the thespian arts were regularly engaged to perform before the city's elite. The hall was the scene of many a brilliant ball, and the commencements of the Female Collegiate Institute were held there. See Hester Donaldson, "The Masonic Hall," in *One Hundred Years: History of Marshall County, Mississippi, 1836-1936* (Holly Springs: Garden Club of Marshall County, 1936): 38.

³ When Grant established his headquarters in the city in the autumn of 1862, the Masonic building was appropriated along with most of the other buildings on the square, as well as the courthouse and the Presbyterian Church as storehouses for Federal supplies. *Southern Tapestry*, 66-67. Maria Mason told how, after Grant's soldiers marched into Holly Springs,

The building was filled with ammunition and as there was no time to bring it out the building was blown up.⁴ An eyewitness told me that it seemed to rise intact for about 200 feet and then fly to pieces. Sam Finley carried a scar on the cheek to the grave from a falling brick. He had not yet entered the Confederate Army, and boy-like was seeing what was going on.⁵

people realized that this was no passing show, but that "General Grant had determined to make Holly Springs his headquarters, and the depot of supplies for his army, the [Mississippi] Central Railroad, furnishing a long line for transportation both North and South, and communication with the Mississippi River being easy through Memphis." She wrote that: "It is astonishing what immediate and complete possession any army takes of a town when once settled down upon it. All the public buildings are seized for headquarters and army offices, and the best dwelling houses become hospitals and the homes of officers. Livery stables, warehouses, depot buildings, and a large armory where the Confederates had tried to make guns, were filled with magazine stores, provisions, and the winter clothing of the troops." "Van Dorn's Raid into Holly Springs," *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (May 30, 1901).

⁴ According to Maria Mason, "The greatest difficulty encountered by the Confederates was getting rid of the magazine stores. They were packed in brick livery stables on the public square and to have set fire to one of them would blow up the entire town. So the principal occupation of the soldiers and citizens was to take the ammunition out, make it into small piles in the streets, and set them off one by one. A stable which was not entirely emptied by the soldiers was set on fire after they left, and the explosion broke almost every windowpane in town."

⁵ By Ruth Watkins account, Finley—who years later was mayor of Holly Springs—"noting the reckless manner in which the soldiers were throwing the captured greenbacks around the streets, he concluded that he would lay in a supply and take it home. He entered the paymaster's room, rolled up a big lot of the money in a rug, and started down the steps. The next thing he knew, he had just regained consciousness on the bed at his home, with a horrible wound in his face, which was caused by the premature explosion

The Masonic building was I think the only brick building on the east side of the square, and the rest caught fire, and were destroyed.¹

PRIDE OF THE TOWN

The old Masonic building was the pride of the town.² When built, it was the only three story building in town. Later the Magnolia Hotel, a three-story brick building was erected and covered all of the west block on the north side except the site of the First State Bank. From a picture of it I would say it was a handsome building, with balconies in pretty iron grillwork, much used in that day.

Until about thirty years ago the second floor of the Masonic building was known as the Masonic Hall, then ambitious managers called it the Opera House, though the name left a bad taste in

of Grant's magazine, a piece of exploded shell having entered his cheek. He never knew what became of his money, but he carried a terrible scar to his grave." "Reconstruction in Marshall County," 158.

¹ J. G. Deupree, a member of General Van Dorn's company, on the fateful December 20, 1862, when the Confederate raiders rushed into Holly Springs destroying Union supplies and with them Grant's hopes for an early assault on Vicksburg, recalled that "The depot buildings, the round-house, and every available place was packed to overflowing. Scores of houses up town were likewise filled. The Court House was filled, and the public square contained hundreds of bales of cotton. A large brick livery stable was packed with unopened cases of carbines and Colt's army six-shooters. A large brick store-house [the Masonic Hall] was likewise filled with artillery ammunition. After appropriating all we could use or arrange to carry away, the work of destruction was pushed with vigor. From about 7 o'clock a.m. till about 4 o'clock p. m., we were engaged in burning this immense collection of army stores." "The Capture of Holly Springs, Mississippi," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society* 4 (1901): 57. Cyrus F. Boyd, a Union soldier who arrived in Holly Springs two days after the Van Dorn raid recorded that "On the east side of the square the large brick buildings which we saw there two weeks ago were now one vast shapeless mass of ruins. Some of these buildings had been stored with shell and other ammunition and explosive material." "The Civil War Diary of Cyrus F. Boyd."

² In 1845, a local newspaper noted that "the Masonic Lodge sponsored and opened a school in their hall. Two years later, an announcement appeared that "Mrs. E. R. Moore has rented the Masonic Hall, and will conduct a select school there for young ladies and small girls." *Holly Springs Gazette* (November 1, 1845, January 29, 1847).

the mouths of some, who regarded it as pretentious.

The street entrance to the old hall was in the center with a store on each side. An antebellum merchant occupying one of them, and opening goods at the beginning of the season piled the boxes in the street across the front of the building, interfering with the entrance to the hall.³

The city fathers passed an ordinance forbidding it and the irate merchant was about to rent a store at the depot when the ordinance was repealed. People of today cannot realize how much the square was cluttered up before and long after the war. Cotton was piled in long rows, several bales high,⁴ on the square and remained there for weeks.¹

³ Emma Finley had trouble finding goods from which to make clothes. She gave this account of a trip to the Holly Springs square, April 11, 1859, to buy cloth: "Ma, Gus, George, Johnie, & I all went to the city chiefly to lay in our supply of summer goods. We found trading difficult, goods very high—nothing exactly to our taste—settling finally—Gus on a double skirt - uppers open organdie & I — double blue beige. Gus & Ginnie got very pretty bonnets too—I am to fix up my last summer's—Disagreeable work this—to me hunting up new fashions." Calico was an enduring favorite, as Emma reports in her entry for May 4 of the same year: "My new calico was voted to be [the] 'very thing' & thimble, needle & thread were immediately called into use." *Our Pen Is Time*, 71, 72.

⁴ Inez Berryhill Adams told how the girls from Mississippi Synodical College, located in the building that now houses the Marshall County Historical Museum, went to and from the square: "At three o'clock each weekday, following our last class, the entire student body of 140 girls assembled in front of the main building for our ritual forty-five minute walk through Holly Springs, weather permitting. We walked in pairs along the path, past the milk plant, downtown to the square, where we circled the courthouse and then retraced our steps back to the college. We saw the long stretches of stacked cotton bales awaiting shipment to gins for the separation of cotton fiber from sticky seeds. The courthouse clock had four faces, each pointing to a different location, and, on the hour, a chime tolled the time for all to hear. Four chimes greeted us on arrival. My walking partner was Clara Beth Ayers, who loved to gossip about the day's activities. Our teachers accompanied us, bringing up the rear of the long line. The student at the head of the line was allowed to go to the grocery store by the college to purchase candy bars for those who had given her money and placed an order. My choice was always a chocolate Mounds bar, my favorite to this day. As we passed by her, she distributed the sweets, which we would eat along the way. We were not allowed to stop anywhere else.

SCENE OF ENTERTAINMENTS

Good companies on the road appeared at the old hall in antebellum days, and there was a local amateur company, the Thespians. It was considered inelegant for ladies to appear in theatricals—unprofessional of course—and men of slender build took the feminine roles.

There were balls and dances and the hall was used for commencement exercises of Holly Springs Female Institute, a school for young ladies that stood on the ground of the public school.²

Passing by drugstores, café, the lyceum, hardware and feed stores, we were greeted by the town people. Doctors and lawyers had offices on the square. The citizens of Holly Springs were proud of our college, because we had high standards, caused no trouble, and showed spirit. Occasionally, we'd sing and brighten their day. The daily walk demonstrated a pride in ourselves and our college and reinforced our sense of belonging, however fleeting. I'm sure the faculty believed the walk improved our fitness and stamina. No one ever complained. Occasionally, we wore our school uniforms on these outings, but mostly we just donned our long everyday dresses." *The Class of 1912*, 66-67.

ⁱ James Fort Daniel recalled that, "Holly Springs has always been an excellent cotton market. Some farmers brought their cotton from long distances to Holly Springs. These farmers who came long distances usually spent the night. They brought two bales of cotton, one bale flat, in front in the wagon, the bale in the rear propped on the front bale. In the space between the bales they brought their bedding, food, and feed for their team. They put the team up at a livery barn or wagon yard. These places provided places for them to sleep. The farmers unloaded their cotton on the square. Each buyer weighed his cotton. The cotton was weighed by a moveable frame, which was placed over the bale of cotton. Suspended from the top beam was a scale and two claw-like hooks, one of which was fastened to each side of the bale. Jack Oglesby, Jack Herron, Dennis Caruthers, Carlos Hill, and Henry Cole were draymen. Mr. Shumacker ran his own dray, so did Mr. I. C. Levy. During the cotton moving season one or more of the draymen had long wagon beds which would haul five bales at a load, three bales on edge in the center and a flat bale at each end. I think the drayage was twenty cents per bale. These draymen after delivering the cotton to the compress, would go by the freight house and deliver freight to merchants uptown. This made the trip more profitable for them." *Marshall Messenger Pilgrimage Edition* (April 1980). See photos in Miller-Smith, 10, 11; *Southern Tapestry*, 101, 104, 114-15.

² Emma Finley describes a ball there in June 1859, honoring Walter A. Goodman and his bride, the

In the earlier period of the war the ladies of the town met there to make uniforms for Confederate soldiers, and it was at one of these meetings that Jas. M. Scruggs, who had just returned from camp, waggishly raised a storm of indignation by telling that Gen. Chalmers had this one's husband currying his horse and that one shining his boots, and so on.

The cornerstone of the present building was laid³ on St. John's Day,⁴ June 24, 1870, and speeches were made by Judge James T. Fant and Col. Tom Harris.⁵

former Miss Corrine Acklin, of Huntsville, Alabama: "Thursday 16th June. After all I did attend the party Monday night. George started to town early in the morning, but stopping at the Dr.'s out of the rain, did not reach there until after dinner, then coming home about 5 o'clock, insisted, since he had no company, that I should accompany him. With Ma's & Ginnie's wishes, I finally decided, & half after six found us driving off in the buggy. We came very near getting a drenching, but a timely wind, blew the clouds away. It was quite dark when I rang at Dr. Caruthers' & I created something of a commotion by my unexpected appearance. Went immediately into supper & afterwards began preparations. The double skirt white tarletan trimmed with blue served,- and dressed- turning myself for inspection. Dr. C. pronounced me looking very 'sweet.' It isn't often he passes judgment,- so I knew how to appreciate the compliment. Julia's & Gus' beaux having arrived, we left for the hall, which, it was said was more nearly filled than ever before- doing honor to the bride, Mrs. Goodman. She was dressed in a yellow tarletan puffed almost to the waist, with crimson & green decorations- & withal looking very charming. I met most of our Red Sulphur company there, but did not talk much with them as they were generally dancing. The table was very handsomely arranged in the hotel dining-room- & since the night had cleared off, & the moon was shining, it was altogether pleasant walking over." *Our Pen Is Time*, 92-93; See photo, *Southern Tapestry*, 87.

³ Shortly after the war's end *The Memphis Commercial Appeal* (April 11, 1866) could proclaim: "The beautiful village of Holly Springs, Miss., is rising from its ashes." The new courthouse and the Masonic Hall were completed in 1870, coming soon after the completion of the new Presbyterian Church and renovations to the Methodist Church, as well as the construction of several new houses. See *Southern Tapestry*, 69.

⁴ Being an Episcopalian, and devout, Mr. Mickle would have been one of the few in Holly Springs who would have marked time by his Church's "kalendar of saints."

⁵ Mr. Mickle notes in another place (see p. 241) that "Mart Leach once told me that [Spires] Boling, who was also a distiller, offered the Masonic Lodge a turnkey job if they would give him a ten year lease on

The building committee was composed of James T. Fant, chairman; James Sims, U. H. Ross,¹ R. E. Taylor, I. C. Levy, Robert McGowan, Howard Falconer and Dr. F. B. Shuford.²

LOST AND REGAINED

The Masons were unlucky in their finances and lost the building. A few years ago they made arrangements by which they own the two upper stories and have made the second story their lodge room.³

In the old as well as the new building the third floor was used as a lodge room, and most of the older lodge men of the various orders in the city rode the goat there. Because of repairs the lodge moved in 1902 and none returned except the Masons, a few years ago.⁴

the ground floor, or possibly half of it, to sell whiskey in. The lodge declined, and financed it by using bonds. The bondholders had to take it over, and when finally sold got little of their money back when it was sold some ten years later." Boling later operated a "gallon house," or wholesale liquor distributorship on the ground floor of the building.

¹ Ulysses H. Ross, who died in the yellow fever, was a builder, and a relic of his work is the raised basement brick cottage, built about 1860 that now stands on the campus of Rust College. It is said that Ross planned a large home on the site, and built the present cottage, perhaps for use as a kitchen. The mansion was never built because of the outbreak of the Civil War.

² With two-thirds of the business district destroyed in Van Dorn's raid and subsequent military operations, the reconstruction of the Masonic Hall—the new being a replica of the old—was an important sign of the town's rejuvenation after the Civil War. See *Southern Tapestry*, 69.

³ By ancient tradition, Masonic lodges in Mississippi, in keeping with the imagery of Christ and the disciples in the upper room, are always located on the second, or a higher floor.

⁴ In June 1899, motion pictures came to Holly Springs, when a Mr. Alexander showed a film to a large audience in the Masonic Hall. *Southern Tapestry*, 86. Hester Donaldson records that "In 1910, Charley Miller leased the building and converted the opera house into a picture show, Mr. Miller being a pioneer of the picture industry in Marshall County. During Mr. Miller's lease the old hall furnished a variety of amusement for the fun-loving public; regular Thursday night dances were scheduled, a skating rink was equipped, and again it became the center of community life. Mr. Miller's lease was followed by that of Miss Jessie Carr and she, in turn, was succeeded by Mr. DeBerry, during whose lease fire destroyed the interior with all the 'movie' paraphernalia. After the

The new Masonic building, the second story, saw a much more colorful life than the old and was used for a greater variety of purposes. The Holly Springs Dramatic Association was organized in the early seventies, and possessed some good talent.

R. L. (Dick) Watson was the tragedian, Mrs. F. A. Lucas the tragedienne and Heber Craft was good in comedy—Russell Freeman was a talented member, as also I believe Dr. White. Mrs. Lucas was a good grand Meg Merriles in "Guy Mannering"—the War of the Sixties had freed women, to some extent, as well as the slaves, and they could now appear on the stage.⁵

I. C. Levy was president and the association leased the hall and had a stage built. The stage painter [Gulick] from the old Memphis Theater was brought out and painted a beautiful curtain and several sets of scenery. He was addicted to drink and men of the association had to watch him to keep him on the job.

AUTRY RIFLES DRILLED THERE

The Autry Rifles, a snappy military company, was organized in 1874, with Maj. George M. Govan as captain, and drilled there. This company was much in social evidence and with the old Holly Springs Band made a colorful part of many public processions.

Franklin Female College and Maury Institute—forerunner of M. S. College—held their commencements there, one lasting until 1:30 o'clock in the morning.⁶

As it had shared the sweet so it was called on to share the bitter, and during the yellow fever epidemic of 1878 it was one of the hospitals, and

damages had been repaired in 1923, the lodge rooms were moved to the second floor and the Opera House became a memory. From that time to the present the third floor has been used as a dance hall. Under the management of Mahon Jones regular Saturday night dances furnish entertainment for the city and its neighboring territory." *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 38.

⁵ See *Southern Tapestry*, 69.

⁶ Entertainments in Holly Springs lasted until surprisingly late at night. Emma Finley recounts in her diary that after attending the ball for the newly wed Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Goodman, "Three o'clock found us just getting home, & since then I can't get sleep enough!" *Our Pen Is Time*, 93.

the sick charts stuck around the walls were objects of awesome interest to returning refugees.¹

Many grand balls and dances were given there both before and after fever, and in the summers of the mid-seventies when a battalion of United States troops would come from New Orleans the officers and citizens would alternate with weekly dances, with music by the military band.²

Wesley Scott, the janitor for many years, is intimately associated in my mind with the hall especially the air of importance with which he lighted the gas jets in the footlights.

The hall was rented to colored people at commencements and an amusing incident occurred once. It was Rust College,³ I think, that put on the cantata, "Ruth and Naomi," with Rock Greene as Boaz, and Bob Dancy, who associated negro singing with minstrels on hand.⁴

The white people who attended occupied the gallery, and the doorkeeper thoughtfully locked the door to the gallery to prevent intrusion.⁵ When the curtain was raised and Bob was disillusioned and couldn't get out, he lay down on a bench and spent two hours of misery, on a hot night.

GOOD ROAD COMPANIES HERE

In the seventies and sometimes later there were good road companies that came every year and stayed a week, and all carried bands and orchestras. They made friends here and immediately after registering at the hotel would look them up. Harry L. Seymour is the only one I can now re-

¹ See *Southern Tapestry*, 72.

² See *Southern Tapestry*, 87.

³ See Webster B. Rhodes, *History of Rust College* (Greensboro, N.C.: pub. by the author, 1924).

⁴ Note on minstrel shows.

⁵ The rules of segregation, strictly enforced in this era, required that if blacks were given the main floor of the hall, whites had to sit in the gallery—an area in theatres sarcastically referred to as "Negro heaven" by critics of the practice. The same practice was employed when services were held for the benefit of the black members of the city's white-controlled congregations. At least one large Charleston, South Carolina church—designed before the Civil War as a mission to the city's slaves, had an elegant and cultured white preacher and was arranged so that Negroes regularly occupied the main floor. Whites, meanwhile, who attended in large numbers, were ushered to the galleries.

call. A member of Seymour's band died on one visit here and Sam West took his place for the rest of the season.

Helen D'Este, with a fairly good company, started me to reading Shakespeare. They appeared in "Hamlet," "Lurezia Borzia" and "Romeo and Juliet."

Occasionally someone of the "higher ups" of theatrical life would come; Ole Bull, the most celebrated violinist of his day, Sol Smith Russell, Frank Banks, I recall, and several noted orchestras.

In the lean years barn-stormers would come, living literally from hand to mouth. The back office of the Tidwell Hotel—now the Travelers' Inn—looked like a property room of a theater, with paraphernalia left for board. "John, they'll come a thousand miles to break on me," Mr. Tidwell told me once.

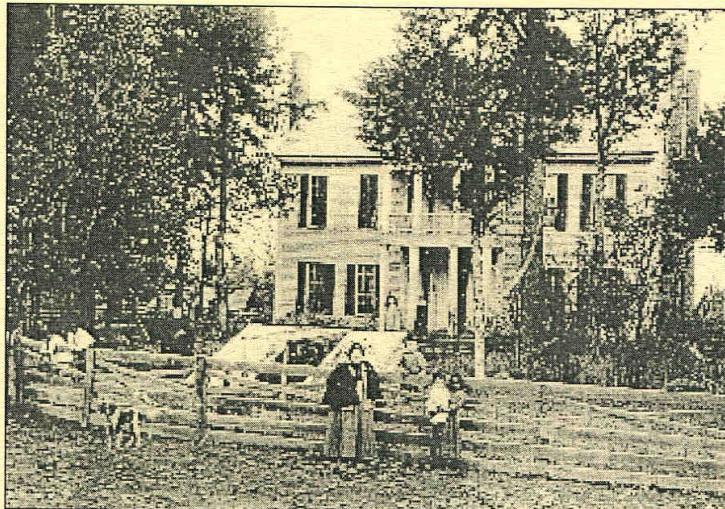
Dr. T. W. Raymond, who would take a chance, brought Sousa's band here about twenty-five years ago at a dollar a seat, and came out on it.⁶

⁶ Inez Berryhill Adams, who resided in Holly Springs with her uncle, the Rev. C. Z. Berryhill and his family from 1907 to 1912, recalled Sousa's visit. She wrote that "the biggest social event of my college days was the time John Phillip Sousa's band came to give a concert, following the invitation by the college lyceum course. I belonged to the lyceum course, paid my three dollars each year, and enjoyed plays, lectures, and discussions. Well, John Phillip Sousa and his band were so popular that the lyceum couldn't hold everybody, so we had to spend \$300 to rent the larger lyceum in downtown Holly Springs. The band wore bright military-like uniforms, and their shining instruments glowed in the light as they played marches and classical pieces. The 140 college girls who walked to town for the concert were also clad in a uniform: brown skirt with a flap in the back, white blouse with a white starched collar, high button shoes, brown hat and belt, and a small cloth handbag. Our hair was long and mostly braided or rolled in buns, and we wore light make-up. After the concert, we walked back to the college and held a reception for local boys. Mrs. Raymond [the college president's wife and dean of students] complimented us on our deportment. The reception was sedate. Sitting on long benches, we talked with our dates. Refreshments were served, and our chaperon, Miss Warren, moved among us and chatted about the evening. I had never heard a large band play, and the music rang in my ears for days. Sousa's band was the largest in the world." *The Class of 1912*, 42-43.

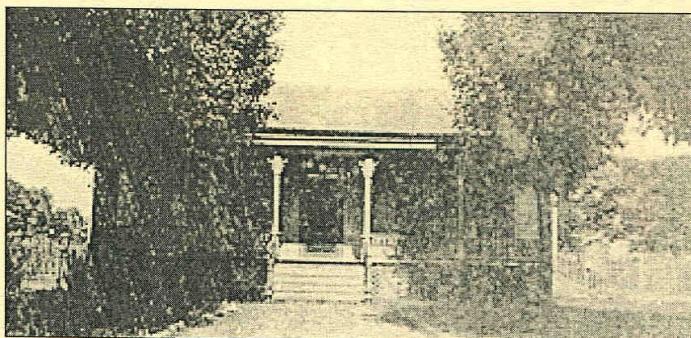
Frank Dudley's company came for several seasons for a week's engagement. He and his wife were killed in an automobile accident about fifteen years ago and the show was broken up.

For several years the Elks Lodge held its Memorial Day exercises there, and the first was the best. Will Ross was Exalted Ruler and no rituals were used. The house was crowded and scarcely any of the lodge were absent.¹

¹ On February 7, 1951, after a snowstorm followed by record low temperatures, the Masonic Hall caught fire. It and several adjacent buildings were destroyed. Damage amounted to \$300,000. The town also lost its public library, with six thousand books, then housed on the third floor of the Masonic building. The fire might have been even more devastating had not been for native son Edward Hull Crump, the three-time mayor of Memphis and political boss of West Tennessee. Coincidentally, the Memphis mayor had been in Holly Springs a generation before when Christ Church caught fire, and as on that occasion, he stepped forward to lend aid in fighting the blaze. This time, Crump sent fire-fighting equipment from Memphis, and in so doing saved the town. By one account, Crump himself drove one of the fire trucks out to Holly Springs. In a similar display of good will, the Rev. A. W. Dick, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, led a drive to obtain a thousand new books for the library in Holly Springs. Dramatic aerial photos, published in the Memphis newspapers, shows the extent of damage to the square. *Mississippi Scenes*, 123; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 415-16, *Southern Tapestry*, 134, 144-47.



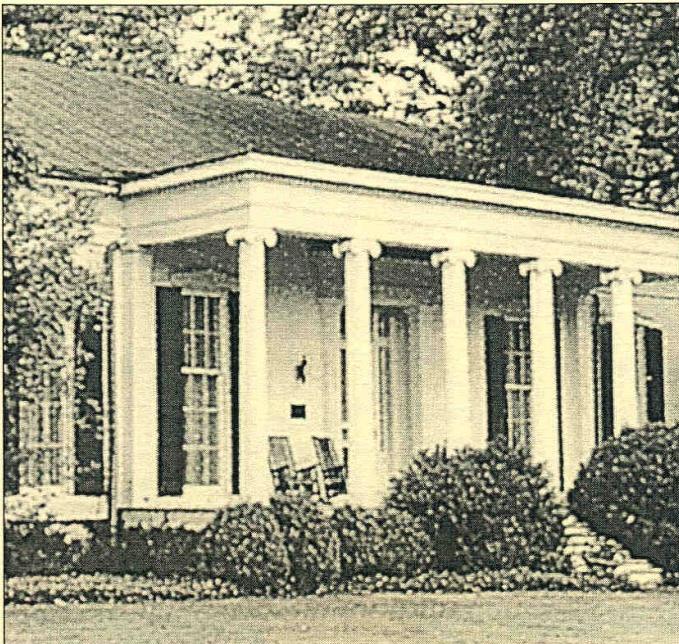
The Moore Place, one of the country homes north of Holly Springs that formed "a pleasant neighborhood on Coldwater." Note the greenhouse in the front yard. Chesley Smith collection.



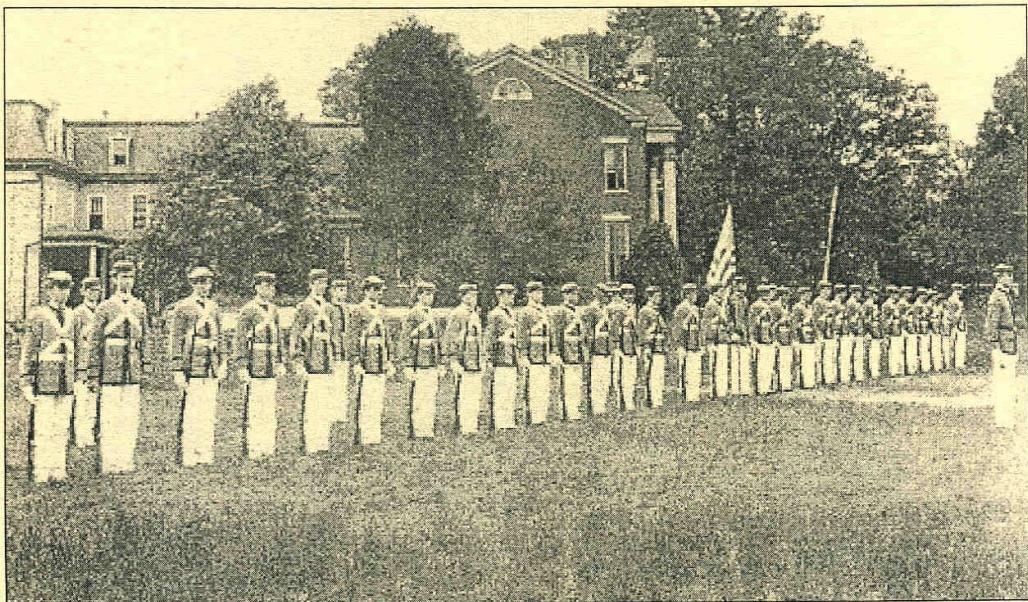
The Whitten Place. Lem Johnson photo. Chesley Smith collection.



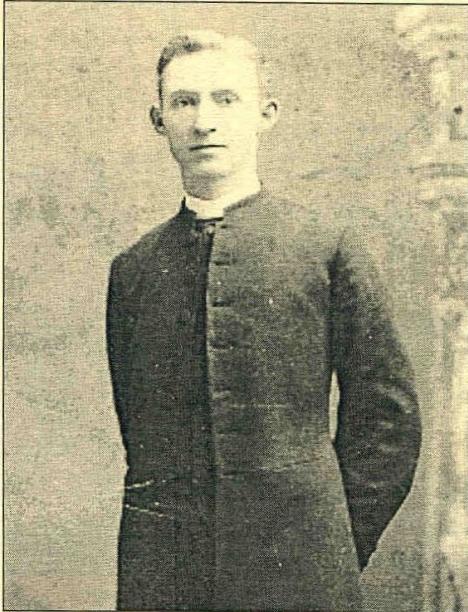
Railroad money of the sort Mr. Mickle said could be redeemed at Sam Frank's store in December 1871.
Photo from Carlton J. Corliss, Main Line of Mid-America.



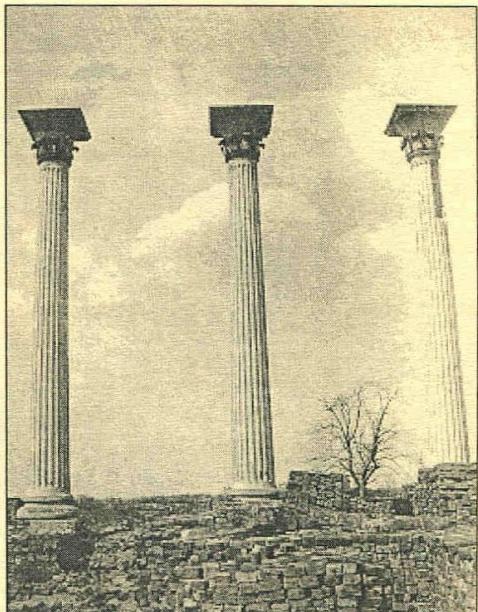
The Wash Taylor Place, near Red Banks,
Now known as "Summer Trees."
Photo from Hubert McAlester.



St. Thomas Hall Cadets in parade formation. The old Pointer mansion and dormitory annex may be seen in the background. Mr. Mickle called the mansion with its large acreage and huge forest trees "the most beautiful place on Salem Avenue." Chesley Smith collection.



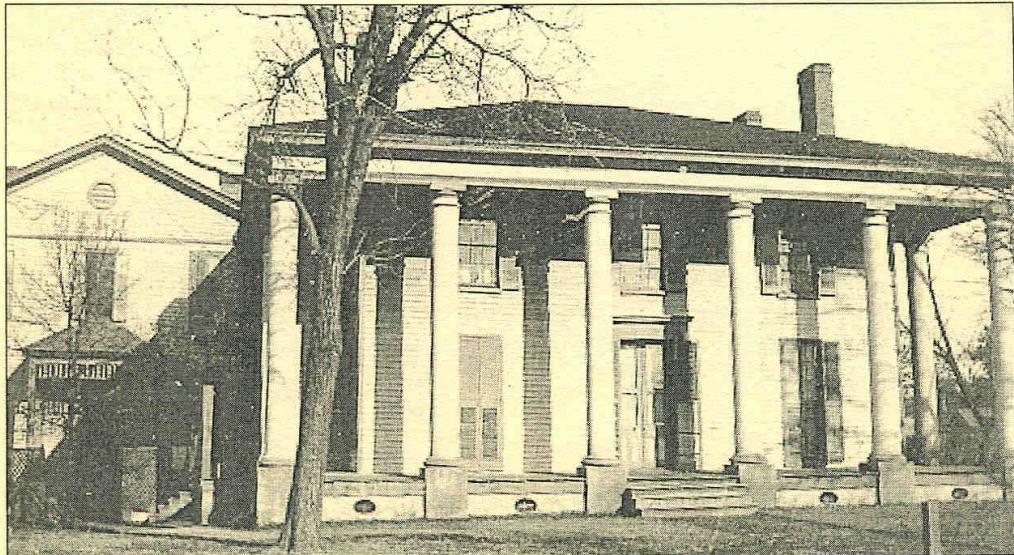
The Rev. Peter Gray Sears.
Photo from the Christ Church collection.



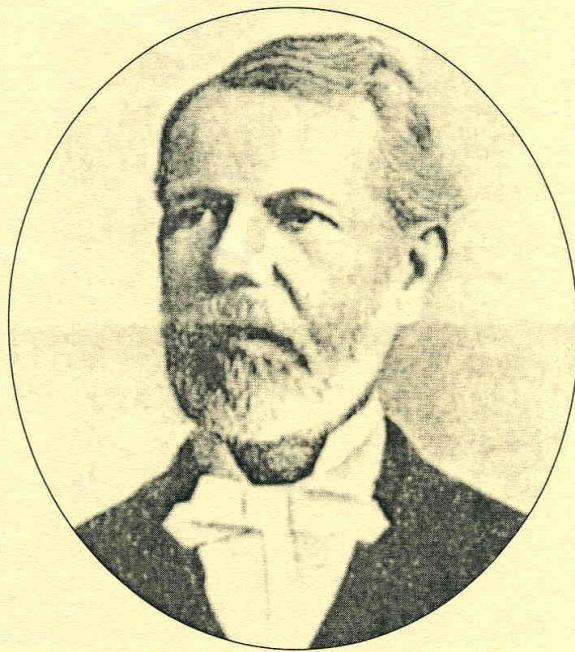
Ruins of St. Thomas Hall, photographed by Lem Johnson in 1901. The mansion burned in 1898.
Chesley Smith collection.



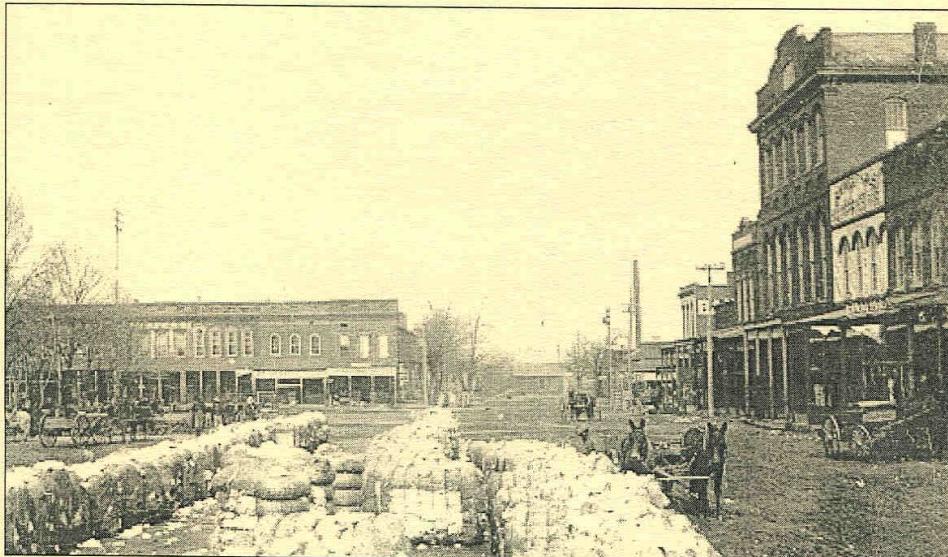
Christ Church choir, which Mr. Mickle said "attained a name that was not confined to the city." Singers in this photo are Theresa Totten, Mrs. Tee (Theresa) Totten, Margaret Ann Seale, Ann Craft, Beth Ayers (organ), Gus Smith III, Michelle Seale, Caffey Smith, and the rector, The Rev. John M. Bodimer (c. 1949). Photo by Chesley T. Smith.



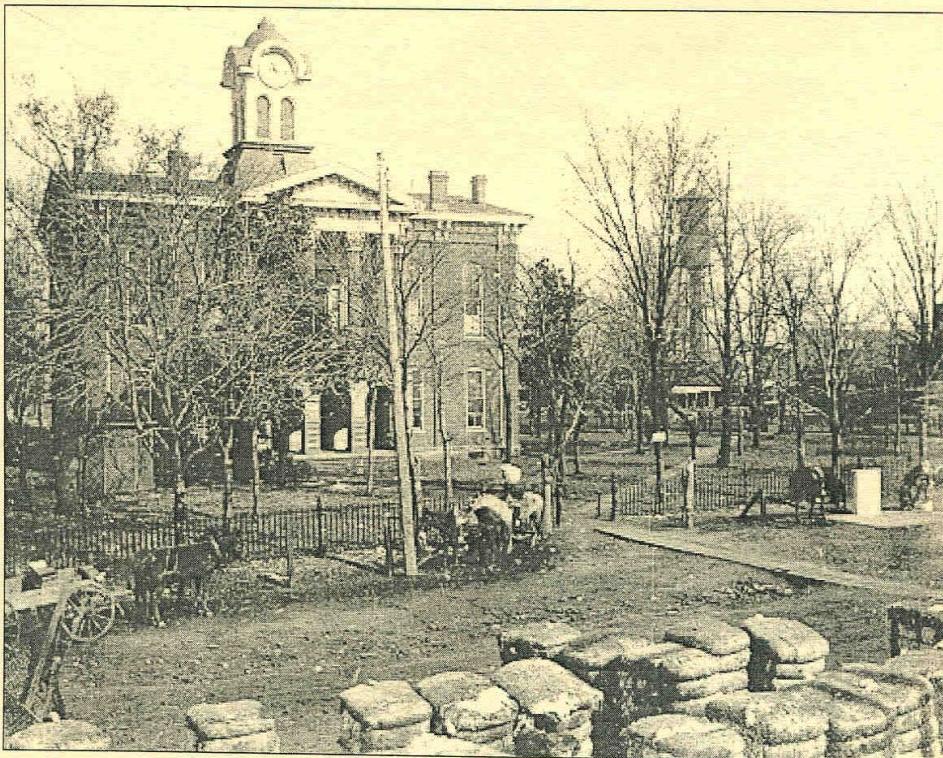
The J. W. C. Watson Place that stood at the northwest corner of College and Maury Streets,
where Elizabeth Davis Watson began her "select school" for young ladies.
The school was later known as "Maury Institute," with annex (left) for students.
Note the front window shuttered against the winter's cold. Chesley Smith collection.



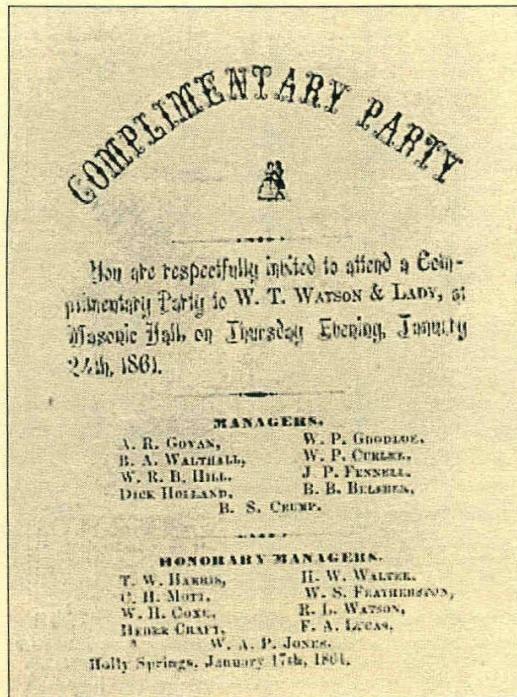
Major William M. Strickland, prominent Holly Springs attorney.
Photo from The Confederate Veteran Magazine.
Courtesy of Bobby Mitchell.



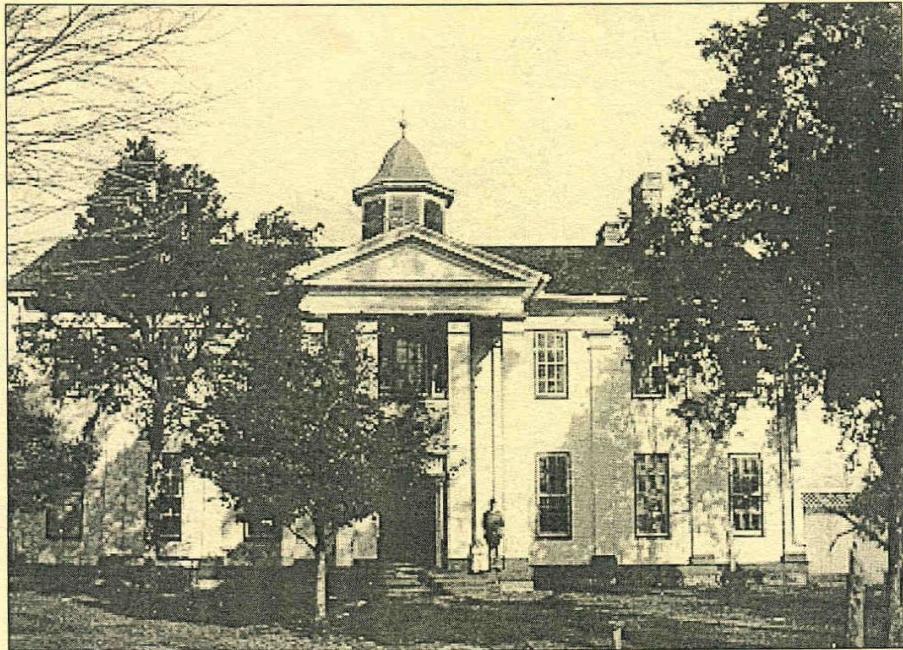
This view of the Masonic hall looks north on the Market Street side of the square. Lem Johnson photo.



Cotton bales occupy the center of the street on the south side of the courthouse in this scene recorded by Lem Johnson in 1901.



Invitation to a ball at the old Masonic Hall on the east side of the square, 1861.
Maggie Totten Robison collection.



Franklin Female Institute, later named Malone College, which stood at the northwest corner of College and Randolph Streets. Photo from the Chesley Smith collection.

CHAPTER XII. HISTORY OF TOWN AND COUNTY AS TOLD THROUGH OLD NEWSPAPERS.

1.

THE LATEST NEWS OF 76 YEARS AGO.

Extracts from *The Holly Springs Gazette* of July 29, 1849,
When Thomas A. Falconer Was the Editor.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (April 30, 1925). A copy of *The Holly Springs Gazette*, dated Friday, July 29, 1849, loaned by Mrs. Charles Taylor, contains interesting information of those times.

It was published by that veteran antebellum editor Thos. A. Falconer, at \$3 per annum in advance, \$4 if paid at the end of the year.

An election for state and county officers was pending, and the editor notes with pride the nomination for governor by the Whigs of Gen. Thos. G. Polk, "distinguished gentleman and fellow townsman of ours." Gen. Polk lived in the house now occupied by James C. Tucker, and was the father of the late Miss Emily Polk.¹

That picturesque character, Major Alexander Bradford was a candidate for Congress from the first district.

Among local candidates, it is noted that Ulysses H. Ross (father of W. T. Ross) and Dr. G. H. Mosley had couched lances in the contest for sheriff. Gordentia Waite (for re-election) and Joseph O. Walker were running for probate clerk.

Hannibal Harris (re-election) of Holly Springs and Andrew J. Edmondson, of Pontotoc, were candidates for district chancery clerk. Judge H. R. Miller² and John W. Thompson were can-

didates for judge and district attorney. B. G. Lawrence, of North Mt. Pleasant, was out for probate judge.

I. Sawyer for county treasurer; A. T. Caruthers, for circuit clerk, Wm. A. Greer, B. R. Melton, William Cocke, Henry Moore, W. G. McGaughery and Thomas D. Jones (formerly of Chulahoma) for assessor, were other candidates.

Scruggs & Walter—P. T. Scruggs and H. W. Walter; Williams & Pryor—N. W. Williams and J. P. Pryor, had law cards. Dr. J. D. M. Litchfield had the only doctor's card; "office on Center Street, in the brick row, opposite the old post office."¹

Miss A. E. Cantrell, fashionable Mantua maker, had just located here.

That hoary old sinner, the horse rack around the court house was being erected, but not without vigorous protest from "Q" who asked: "independently of the indecency and danger of having men, mules and horses all mixed up around the court house, I beg leave to ask the authors of this

¹ The Polk Place still stands at 180 South Craft Street. See photo, Miller-Smith, 106.

² In a day when travel was by horse and buggy, officials of the court would often remain over the

weekend in the cities of their circuits where terms of court were under way. Judge Hugh R. Miller, of Pontotoc, wrote to his wife, Mrs. Susan G. Miller, from Holly Springs, July 28, 1851, that: "I attended the Presbyterian church on Sunday & heard a stranger [that is, a guest minister] preach, morning & evening, to a very small congregation." Don Manning Miller to R. Milton Winter, April 4, 1999.

outrage, whoever they may be if no regard is due the health of people around the square?"¹

The California gold fever is in full swing, and letters from travelers en route were printed from *The St. Louis Republican*. Those letters were left at points along the trail in the hope that returning travelers would find and forward them. They mention the South Carolina company, the Johnson County, Mo., company and the Greenville, Ill., company had combined to travel together.

From March 25 to July 8, deaths in St. Louis, from Cholera numbered 3,537. Cholera was also raging in New York, Philadelphia and Cincinnati.

George Sharland Phillips writes a poem "O Smiles Can Beam Over a Troubled Heart." He was father of the late Dr. Phillips and Mrs. R. S. Stith.

"Died—In Shelby County, Tenn., July 7, 1849, Mrs. Emily, Consort of Mr. James Sims, in the eighteenth year of her age." Mr. Sims, after married Miss Yarborough, and they were the parents of Beatrice and Jennybell and James Sims, Jr.

Cotton is firm at 10 ½ cents in New Orleans and Mobile.

J. W. Clapp and W. M. Strickland announce a new law partnership recently formed.

Willis and Gartrell advertising druggist sundries, and Long and Farrell family groceries. Stephen Knapp announces that he has opened a fashionable tailor shop next to Williamson Hotel.

¹ According to John Wade, a row of wooden hitching posts connected by iron chains formed a kind of cordon around the courtyard. As time passed some of the posts gave way to age, and teams were occasionally tied to the iron fence that once surrounded the courthouse. With the advent of automobiles, the situation was judged to be even more hazardous. Moreover, people realized that the unsanitary condition resulting from stock standing for hours in one spot was a menace to health. Thus the decision was made to remove the hitching posts. But as Olga Reed Pruitt noted, "some older citizens, remembering their own boyhood, objected to removing the fence and hitching posts on the grounds that barefoot boys who stuck nails in their feet would not have access to the necessary makings of a poultice for the prevention of infection." *It Happened Here*, 96-97.

This hotel stood on [northeast block of the square].

Orin Beck advertises the merits of Snow Creek Springs as a health resort. Attractions provided are ten-pin alley, baths and dancing, and a cotillion party each week. Holland & Epps,² liverymen will convey guests to the springs in three hours from Holly Springs.

Franklin Female College will open in September. Faculty: The Rev. S. G. Starks, the Rev. Guilford Jones, Mr. J. Trotreau, Mrs. M. A. Holiday, Miss M. G. Goode, Mrs. E. R. Moore. Board for session of twenty-one weeks \$50.00, including washing, lights and fuel.

Grattan & Lennox, proprietors of the theatre in Memphis, take pleasure in announcing to the ladies and gentlemen of Holly Springs and Marshall County that the Drama in all its pristine perfection will prevail in Memphis from October to April next.

Henry Stith and Richard Stanford Stith have formed a co-partnership for the practice of law.

² Wyatt Epps (1797-1878), was an early settler, and candidate for sheriff. Born in Virginia, he came first to Jackson, Tennessee, where he was one of the founders of the Methodist Church there. He evidently came to Holly Springs with the flood of settlers in 1836. His younger daughter Sarah, was a belle of the 1840s and was chosen to present the banner to the Marshall Guards when they left for the Mexican War. Epps built the house now known at the Norfleet-Rand Place at the corner of North Maury Street and East Park Avenue. He operated a tavern and hotel on Spring Street—the second such structure built in Holly Springs, that stood on the edge of Spring Hollow until it was torn away in 1925. In 1842, he acquired the Union House, a large hotel that stood on the southwest corner of the square where the present Linwood's Department Store is located. In 1859 Epps sold his home-stead at the corner of Maury and Park. James J. House bought the place, and in 1861, traded residences with Jesse P. Norfleet who was living in what is now the Cochran Place ("Dunvegan") on the northeast corner of West Ghelson Avenue and Craft Street. After the Civil War the Epps family left Holly Springs and settled in Memphis, where Wyatt Epps was proprietor of the Southern Hotel on Main Street. He died in Memphis during the yellow fever epidemic which took so many lives in that city. Hamilton, 130; Hubert McAlexander, "Epps-Norfleet Restoration Saves Historic Holly Springs Residence," *Holly Springs South Reporter* (April 24, 1986): 11.

Office, the third door from the new Presbyterian Church.¹

The annual public examination of St. Thomas Hall, will take place on July 30 and 31. The public is invited.²

W. W. Wallace, Jailer, advertises two slaves committed to the jail as runaways, who give their names as Albert and Handy and say that they belong to John Burdoe, of Attala County.

B. A. Myers made hats to order.

Jack Holland was the most luminous character of antebellum Holly Springs. Holland & Epps operated the Mammoth Livery Stable, located north of the Masonic Building. "The location of this stable possesses many conveniences—only a few steps from the courthouse and hotel and in full view of the whole town," says Jack, for he must have written the advertisement. "The weary traveler, overtaken by night, on gaining the square from any direction, by casting his eye it will necessarily fall upon this cheerful spot, beholding at the same time, these bright and inviting lamp lights which from within, penetrate a glass front and throw their luminous radiance over the square. Put up with Holland & Epps and have your horse well washed, well watered, well

foddered, well corned, well salted and pay your Quarter—Cheap enough."

¹ The Presbyterian Church then occupied the building that now serves as the Graham Miller Store at the southeast corner of Memphis Street and Van Dorn Avenue.

² William Baskerville Hamilton explains that "a custom connected with education of the time...was the public examination. Periodically, about twice a year, the papers would carry the announcement of the examination, inviting the general public to the ordeal. The pupils would be put through their paces, with speaking by citizens and faculty, and recitation of 'pieces' by the students. Any member of the board of trustees, and even any patron, was privileged to ask any pertinent question of the harassed seeker after learning, but this was no doubt dreaded as much by the teacher as his underling, for he was as much on trial as the student, who, indeed, was likely to have been carefully coached for the occasion." Hamilton, 76-77. In June 1859, Emma Finley noted her brother's first public recitation at a school examination: "Cousin Sam says Johnie did very well last night,- which it delights me to hear, so it was his first public appearance. I think he has a good deal of ambition, & when that is aroused, he will most surely succeed in whatever he undertakes." *Our Pen Is Time*, 95. ("Johnie" was John Samuel Finley, referred to elsewhere in these pages.)

2.

78 YEAR-OLD PAPER GIVES LATEST NEWS.

Holly Springs Gazette of July 11, 1850, Edited by Judge Thomas A. Falconer, Contains Many Local Items to Interest Readers of Today.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (May 10, 1928). L. G. Fant has a copy of *The Holly Springs Gazette* of date Thursday, July 11, 1850, which makes "interestin' readin'" in the light of subsequent history and also as a cross section of the life of that time.

The headlong rush of the nation into civil war is plainly forecast though yet ten years away. Some were wise enough to foresee and condemn rash talk. A correspondent writes on a speech made by J. C. Holland on the Missouri Compromise:

"And moreover the *Bombastes Furioso* style of that J. C. Holland speech, and the uproarious manner of its reception, are not, and cannot be, a fair representation of the voice of chivalrous Marshall on a grave subject which involves so deeply our nation's interests."

An occasional visitor here, "J.A.W.", writes that after a day in Memphis he took passage on the "stage for the little city of 'Ever Green Springs'; though comparatively a stranger among your citizens, yet I feel that I am really going home."

People in those days remembered their dead, the ladies especially with long periods of mourning, hence W. T. Mason & Co., feature mourning goods in that issue. One item is "black love veils."

Judge Thomas A. Falconer, the editor, desires to sell or lease *The Gazette* that he may devote his time to his profession. Judge Falconer's son Maj. Kinloch Falconer, was later Secretary of State and died while in office in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878. His father and brother Howard were also victims.

Subscription to *The Gazette* was \$3 in advance, \$4 otherwise.

J. H. Anderson and J. F. Phillips were law partners. Mr. Anderson was the father of John E. and W. Henry Anderson of the present time. Henry Stith and (Judge) Richard Stanford Stith were law partners—"office 3rd door south of the new Presbyterian Church," (now the J. A. Miller store).¹

P. T. Scruggs and (Col.) H. W. Walter were partners in law, office upstairs over the store of T. B. Mason & Co.

Long & Terrell advertise "white fish and trout of superior quality, just received from Lake Erie." Some enterprise that, with Memphis the nearest railroad point.

Andrew J. Edmondson, chancery clerk, issues non-resident notices, one having Baldwin, Word & Freeman as solicitors for complainant. Mr. Freeman was the husband of the late Mrs. Kate Walhall Freeman.

Stephen Knapp, fashionable tailoring, advertises his shop as next door to the Williamson Hotel (which occupied the site of the present I. C. Levy store).² Mr. Knapp was Will Knapp's great-grandfather.

The irrepressible Jack Holland, always picturesque and temperamental, and the greatest horseman Marshall County ever knew—advertises that he is enlarging his building to accommodate 100 horses.

¹ This building served as the Presbyterian Church from 1848 to 1860, when it was vacated by the congregation for its present sanctuary on the south corner of the block. It is currently the Graham Miller Department Store. It was the county's first brick church. The first service, a communion day, was held, May 28, 1848. See *It Happened Here*, 24; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 104-105; *Southern Tapestry*, 30.

² The northeast block of the square.

"This stable is situated immediately on the square, two-story parapet open front, glass-doors and Venetian windows!" The stable occupied the site of the M. & F. Bank, probably to the Masonic building. It was burned when the old Masonic Hall was blown up during Van Dorn's raid.

The Rev. S. G. Starks, A. M., was president of Franklin Female College, which stood on the site of the H. Myers' residence.¹ The pine tree is the only link left. Your grandmother may have been educated there. The rest of the faculty were: The Rev. Guilford Jones, Charles Beckwith, A.B., Julius Trotreau (French, drawing and painting). Mrs. Caroline Starks, Mrs. M. A. Holiday, Henry Carstensen, music.

Commencement exercises of Holly Springs [Female] Institute "closed yesterday (Friday)." As *The Gazette*'s publication day was Thursday they seem to have been late. The Institute occupied the site of the High School. "Last night the exercises closed by a concert before a very large assemblage."

The Gazette's column rules are inverted as a mark of respect to the memory of Gen. Zachary Taylor, twelfth president of the United States, who died July 9, and Sergeant S. Prentiss, Mississippi's most gifted orator, and a man of national fame.

Vice-President Millard Fillmore succeeded Taylor to the presidency, and *The Gazette* says editorially: "In view of the excitement between the two great sections of this confederacy, the people will look with intense anxiety for an exposition of Mr. Fillmore's position on the question of the day."

The M. E. Church and M. E. Church, South are having lawsuits over church property.² The

¹ The H. Myers residence stood at the northwest corner of Randolph Street and College Avenue, where the Baptist Activities Building is now located. Mr. Myers, a Jewish merchant, operated a large dry goods store on the south side of the square. See *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 90.

² As sectional tensions mounted in the nation, its churches had begun to divide over slavery and related issues. Methodists and Baptists had divided in 1845, followed by New School Presbyterians in 1857. Old School Presbyterians (with whom the Holly Springs Presbyterians were allied) along with the Episcopalians, persevered as united communions until 1861, but

paper records that court decisions respect the terms of contract between the two bodies at time of severance.

Horrors! The brute! Truth may as well be told, modern flappers and jellybeans have better manners in public gatherings than their forebears. Here's documentary evidence. The editor, who attended commencement exercises at Holly Springs Institute, says editorially: "The crowd was so great (and noisy) and the room so large that we did not get near enough to hear a word, except Mr. Scruggs' address."

Welch, Deleven and Nathan's Circus³ exhibited here this week.⁴ The editor says in italics:

the strains were severe. Thus, from 1845 until 1939, the communion presently known as the United Methodist Church existed in two branches, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, North. See Mitchell Snay, *Gospel of Disunion: Religion and Separatism in the Antebellum South* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1993).

³ A visit from a traveling show was a major event in Southern towns of the 1800's. Colorfully decorated wagons drove through the streets drawing children out of their homes into a happy procession anticipating fun at the show grounds. The most popular circuses were John Robinson's Circus and Menagerie, W. C. Coup's Monster Shows, and the Grand New Orleans Menagerie and Circus. The basic pattern was established by the 1850s—a parade to draw crowds, exhibitions under canvas tents, trained animals, clowns, acrobats and aerialists, jugglers, ventriloquists, and freak shows. But gamblers, hustlers, and pickpockets followed and always seemed to encourage drinking and fighting, so that preachers criticized circuses. Some Holly Springs ministers of this era inveighed against the circus. Robert B. Alexander, a member of the Holly Springs Methodist Church recorded for his diary July 31, 1859 that he "went to church and heard the Rev. Elias Jackson" preach a particularly harsh sermon against those who had attended the Bailey Circus which had come to town earlier that month. But not all church people disdained the circus. Miss Lizzie Watson, a Presbyterian schoolteacher, and devout, looked forward to it. As one of her pupils, Belle Strickland, recorded, April 24, 1868, "I believe there is a circus coming here to-day which will show tonight.... I asked Miss Lizzie just now if she was going to the circus, and she said, 'Of course, she always went.'" *Civil War Women*, 177-79. For their part, circus owners adapted to Southern morals by featuring chariot races and religious tableaus. See Charles Reagan Wilson, "Traveling Shows," *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, 1247.

⁴ In a succeeding generation, Chesley Smith recalled that: "On circus day, the wagons loaded with colored folks came into town by 6:00 a.m. I remember

"We had the pleasure of staying away," adding, "as the weather was insupportably hot."

Orin Beck & Sons advertises Snow Creek Springs is open, and among other amusements is dancing, with three cotillions a week.

Ulysses H. Ross (father of the late W. T. Ross) and Gordentia Waite are executors of the will of James C. Alderson. Mr. Alderson was a banker who lived in the old Dr. Malone house, and was uncle of the late Ed Matthews.¹

E. H. Mitchell² confectioneries, fruits, etc., urges his patrons to "eat, drink and be merry," and will be pleased to supply the ladies' with ice cream on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. For cooling drinks he keeps London Porter,³ Albany Ale, SODA WATER, Lemonade, and the celebrated Ginger Pop.

Mother's telling me to look from the upstairs front window of the southeast room which was our bedroom. [The family lived in the Craft-Fort-Daniel Place at the corner of South Memphis Street and West Gholson Avenue.] The wagons also came in droves to be hitched in the same places each Saturday. A row of old knotty mulberry trees that stood on the east side of the Crump garden accommodated several wagons. Other places to hitch were on the south and east sides of the Presbyterian Church. Of course, they were all over town, but those were the places from which I could watch. The women would stand around the church to dust off each other and arrange their hats; circus day was exciting for everybody and those darkies most of all. I believe that relatively few could afford the actual show. They came for the parade which took place before noon. There were elephants, clowns, wild animals in cages, and the calliope playing. Nobody wanted to miss a thing. The parade would come up one of the longer streets, circle the square, and go down another street." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 14.

¹ The historic Malone house stood at the southwest corner of Alderson Street and West College Avenue. A masterpiece of Greek Revival architecture, it was torn down in the 1980s to be replaced by a metal-frame commercial structure. Hamilton, 129; *Southern Tapestry*, 160; see photo, Miller-Smith, 39.

² Mr. Mitchell, whose store can be seen in Alexander Simplot's sketch of the town square made for *Harper's Magazine* in 1862, built a home at the southwest corner of Minor Street and West Chulahoma Avenue in 1854. Torn down in the 1940s, it stood where the Baptist pastorum is now.

³ A dark colored malt liquor.

Molloy & Wilkins is a new dry goods firm, on the west side of the square.⁴

(Dr. P. A.) Willis & Gartrell, druggists, are extensive advertisers.

⁴ Daniel B. Molloy was a local merchant. He invested in railroad projects and was a trustee of the University of Holly Springs. He later moved to Memphis, but maintained old ties. A locomotive on the Mississippi Central Railroad was named in his honor. Hamilton, 132; *Civil War Women*, 1-3, 6-8, 226.

3.

OLD TIMES IN BOSTON AND IN HOLLY SPRINGS.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (March 5, 1931).¹ Mrs. J. C. Laws of Bethlehem has loaned me the most ancient newspaper I have ever seen—"The Boston Gazette and Country Journal," of Monday, March 12, 1770. Accompanying was also a copy of *The Holly Springs Gazette* of Friday, November 8, 1850, old series Vol. 10, No. 11; new series, Vol. 1, No. 11. Published by F. D. Anderson and R. S. Stith. Subscription \$3 a year in advance.

These papers had belonged to Mrs. Laws' father, the late Dr. Wm. D. Mims, a native and for fifty years a resident of the southern part of the county, later moving to DeSoto County. Mrs. Laws does not know their previous history.

Though the American Revolution is six years away, it is plainly on the way, judging from *The Boston Gazette*.

The freeholders of the town of Roxbury pass resolutions that they will not patronize merchants who sell British goods until the revenue acts are repealed. Nor will they make use of foreign tea except in the case of sickness—a prelude to the Boston tea party. Duty was charged on tea.

The two inside pages are in mourning with heavy black rules for the death of four citizens, killed in a collision with the British soldiery. During the funeral most of the stores were closed. Two of the victims being strangers were borne to the graves from Faneuil Hall—"several hearses forming a junction in King Street the theatre of that inhuman Tragedy."

The picture of four coffins is displayed in the story, each bearing the initials of a victim above a skull and crossbones.

The coming of the other conflict—the War of the Sixties—is seen in *The Holly Springs Gazette*, which, however seems bitterly opposed to secession and roundly denounces "the wild, reck-

less, thoughtless fanatics (abolitionists and disunionists) North and South, who are working together for the same fatal object."

Fuel had been added to the editor's fire by a joint debate in Holly Springs November 5 between Senator Henry S. Foote, Unionist and Major Roger Barton, who appeared to be for Disunion. The report of the meeting occupied three columns.

It will be recalled that the death of Maj. Barton was noted from *The Empire Democrat* of 1855 and extracts from a tribute to his memory in a recent story "Holly Springs News of 76 Years Ago."

The Masonic and Odd Fellow Institute at Salem, Tippah County, has advertised that it has male and female departments entirely separate. Board can be had with private families. Guliford Jones is principal.

As I have stated before Salem, once a thriving burg, has entirely disappeared. The site is now in Benton County.

Two Holly Springs schools advertise, Franklin Female College, the Rev. Stephen G. Starks principal, and the Holly Springs Female Institute, the Rev. G. W. Sill principal.² The first stood on the site of the H. Myers home on College Avenue;³ the latter on the site of the city schools.⁴

² The Rev. G. W. Sill, who held a Master of Arts degree from Yale, served as principal and instructor in ancient languages, higher mathematics, and natural sciences at the Female Institute, beginning in 1848. He was also rector of Christ Church.

³ Franklin Female Institute stood at the northwest corner of North Randolph Street and East College Avenue, where the present First Baptist Church Activity Center is now located. *Southern Tapestry*, 85, see photo p. 30.

⁴ The Female Institute stood where the present Holly Springs High School is located on the east side of North Walhall Street at the corner of East Falconer Avenue.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

Including tuition in collegiate course and all of the extras, together with board, washing, lights and fuel, Franklin's charge for a session of twenty-one weeks was \$122.50; the Institute \$135.

My old friend Jack Holland is as good an ad writer as liveryman. I never saw him, but I knew his son Phil Holland; but I love him for the ads he wrote and I have mentioned them before.

He has added forty feet to his Mammoth Stable, "immediately on the square, where I may be found except when asleep."

Although he has added forty feet to the stable, "that same well of fine cold, clear water still stands in some five feet of the aft end of the Livery, from which the stock are watered S I X (the caps are his) times a day, and although corn and fodder is remarkably high, yet the subscriber feeds it like it was a bit a bushel."

N. R. Sledge of Sledgeville, Panola County, offers for sale 400 acres of land adjoining Holly Springs, one mile east of the courthouse on the Salem Road. Improvements are a five-room house, kitchen, negro houses,² stables, apple and peach orchards, and a "fine chance of shrubbery."

If I am not mistaken the Sledge ancestors once lived in Marshall County.

L. Sims & Brothers operating stage lines, advertise the Great Southern and Western Mail Route—Memphis to New York via Charleston in eight days, with only 240 miles of stage travel.

They connect at Holly Springs with post coaches tri-weekly to Jackson, Miss., via Oxford, Grenada, Canton and Yazoo City; and the tri-weekly line from Holly Springs to Columbus, Miss., via Pontotoc and Aberdeen.

¹ The stable was on the site long occupied by the Merchants & Farmers Bank, now the Marshall County Tax Assessor's Office.

² The small cabins—often in the form of "shotgun" houses, if they contained more than one room, have only recently begun to attract the attention of historians and preservationists. After assiduous efforts to remove them in the 1970s, only a few remain in the area to-day.

All hacks have been dispensed with³ and elegant Troy-built, nine passenger coaches are used. Jas. Sims,⁴ one of the brothers, was an ancestor of Leroy Taylor of this city.

Dr. S. P. Cutler,⁵ resident dentist, has rooms over Molloy & Wilkins new store. I remember him, and his office in my boyhood was in a two-story frame building on the site of the southwest corner of the Post Office lot. He advertises "teeth extracted, plugged and nerves destroyed without pain." The plugging and nerve destroying without pain had become a lost art in dentistry by the time I came on.⁶

I went to school to his sister, Miss Caroline Cutler, the last session she taught. The one room school stood on the edge of the spring hollow, near the swimming pool. Many of the girls and boys of my school days got their earlier schooling there.

She was a good-hearted woman and charged no tuition in many cases. I stood in great awe of her for she had the reputation of being very handy with the switch. But she may have softened with age for I remember only two boys getting licked—Earl Blythe and Kinloch Adams.⁷

³ In truth, horse-drawn hacks continued in use for a good while longer. Chesley Smith remembered that when they were finally done away with in her youth, a row of them stood abandoned across Memphis Street from the Craft Place, where she was reared, and the children used to play in them. "They were luxurious with tufted blue velvet upholstery and little vases for flowers attached near the doors. What had been a big livery stable was nearby, and that's why the hacks were left there. It stood where the large abandoned metal Coca-Cola manufacturing plant now languishes. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 92.

⁴ Lieutenant James Sims, who ran the stage line, had served in the Mexican War.

⁵ Dr. Cutler was a violinist and also taught chemistry and geology in Franklin Female Academy. Emma Finley wrote of visiting Mrs. Sarah Southall Wilkinson Walhall, September 2, 1858, where with Frank Peck playing the piano and with "Dr. Cutler's sweet violin, we had music sweet." *Our Pen Is Time*, 21.

⁶ Dentistry was not advanced in the 1850s, and Emma Finley also recorded that Dr. Cutler's dentistry was not pain-free. In the summer of 1858, she noted that her sisters had gone into town, Ginnie "to have her teeth fixed" and Gusta "to go to the party." Emma wrote that "Wed. morning had my teeth plugged- & a sieve I had of it too." *Our Pen Is Time*, 20.

⁷ For her part, Emma Finley, who was a generation older than Mr. Mickle, recorded in her diary that "Miss Caroline has the greatest profusion of flowers,

The Holly Springs Coach Factory, N. W. Burns proprietor, is located immediately back of Williamson's Hotel on North Center Street. Work built to order, from a \$90 buggy to a \$2,000 coach.

E. A. Thomas advertises a carriage and harness shop, having just bought out T. F. Webster on Hernando Street (now West College), west of E. A. Talbot's drug store. He operated a tavern, probably on the site of his carriage shop, until 1878 when he and his wife died with yellow fever. Many will remember the building as the Coyle House.

The law firm of Scruggs, Walter & Williams is composed of P. T. Scruggs, H. W. Walter and N. W. Williams.

[and] I shall do all I can to ingratiate myself into her good graces." *Our Pen Is Time*, 21.

4.

AS HOLLY SPRINGS WAS JUST EIGHTY YEARS AGO.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (January 22, 1931).¹ Mrs. Mary Megginson Stone of Belen, Miss., formerly of Mack neighborhood, sends a copy of *The Mississippi Palladium*, of September 19, 1851.

Her mother was a daughter of the late Daniel Rather, and sister of the late Sam Rather, and graduated at old Franklin Female College about 1855. Mrs. Stone is sister of Dan R. Megginson, now of Myrtle, Miss.

Daniel Rather came to Holly Springs as the Indians were leaving, and built the old Rather house, just east of Strickland Place, on Van Dorn Avenue—formerly Church or Depot Street.² The house is still owned by the L. A. Rather, Sr., estate.

The Mississippi Palladium, Friday, September 19, 1851, Volume 1, No. 22, was published by Thomas A. Falconer, Henry Stith editor and proprietor.³ Judge Falconer was a well-known newspaperman in antebellum days, and was the father of Howard and Kinloch Falconer, lawyers here in later years, and for awhile in the early seventies editors of *The Reporter*.⁴ All three died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878,

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

² The town of Holly Springs and Marshall County was (and is) casual about its assignment of street names—the older residents much preferring to give directions according to familiar landmarks, or by referring to the homes of prominent citizens. Moreover, the town has renumbered its addresses more than once. The implementation of the 911-emergency assistance telephone plan has finally necessitated the assignment of definite names and location numbers for all streets and roads throughout the area.

³ A. M. Clayton called Judge Stith “a forcible writer, with a clear conception of Constitutional law,” who “did good service to his party.” *Centennial Address*, 12.

⁴ According to A. M. Clayton, “Falconer had been an old time Clay-Whig, but when new issues arose, he declared in favor of State Rights, and the equal right of the South in the territories.” *Centennial Address*, 12-13.

Kinloch Falconer being [Mississippi's] Secretary of State at the time.

Subscription price of the paper was \$3 when paid in advance, \$3.50 in six months, and \$4.00 at the end of the year.

An election was on and the Democratic state rights nominations were: Col. Jefferson Davis for governor; Jo. Bell for secretary of state; George T. Swann for auditor; Richard Griffith, for treasurer. For Congress: Jacob Thompson, 1st District; W. S. Featherston (father of the Hon. D. M. Featherston), 2nd District; Wm. McWillie, 3rd Dist.; A. G. Brown, 4th Dist. W. S. (later Gen.) Featherston was then practicing law in Houston, Miss., and was elected to Congress.

Local and district candidates announcing, politics not stated, were: Alexander M. Clayton for judge of the high court of errors and appeals;⁵ Capt. A. K. Blythe of Columbus for vice-chancellor of the Northern District of Mississippi; Gordentia Waite and John R. McCarroll (grandfather of Mrs. E. W. Francisco, Sr.) for probate clerk; A. T. Caruthers for circuit clerk; Thomas Powell and B. D. Matthews (grandfather of Mrs. W. H. Jones) for sheriff; Thomas T. Koen for assessor; Wm. P. Fogg and George Thompson for treasurer.

Public speakings⁶ are announced and names of places no longer in this county or non-existent were: Lamar, Coldwater, Hunt's Mill, Cowin's Mill, Tallalooza, Jim Wolf, Callahan's Mill, Butler's Mill and Deshong's Store.

⁵ Now, the state Supreme Court.

⁶ Speechmaking at country crossroads as a phenomenon of Southern politics has virtually disappeared with the advent of mass communications, but in the agrarian politics of the old South, it was once considered absolutely essential for a candidate to prove that he could meet and convince the common people. See *The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, 1151.

JEFF DAVIS FOR GOVERNOR

The American Sovereign of Pontotoc hoists to its masthead the name of Col. Jeff Davis for governor.

Certain citizens demand of certain candidates—whose names are illegible—who claim to be Democrats, whether they will, if elected delegates to the next legislature, support the Democratic or Whig candidates for the United States Senate.¹ The signatures to the cards are: W. M. Strickland, Jno. R. Norfleet, J. J. Meek, M. D. Robinson, Aaron Dean, J. H. Morgan, James McFadden, A. B. Worton, W. J. McCullough, Wm. Mothershead, Jno. B. Brown, Samuel Kelsey, Alex Meek, Sr., Jas. Mooring, Fran. Thompson.

M. D. Robinson, who lived near Salem was grandfather of Mrs. S. W. Mullins; Aaron Dean, who lived in the Chulahoma neighborhood, was the uncle of Mayor C. N. Dean, and J. H. Morgan was probably the founder of the Morgan families in the Bethlehem and Cornersville neighborhoods.²

The Rev. Dr. Colton, the new principal of St. Thomas Hall, has arrived and the school will open, Oct. 1.

¹ Hodding Carter described Mississippi's political questions of that day as follows: "In 1851, when the Congressional compromises and the question of secession or union were paramount in Mississippi, Marshall County's Whigs were barely returned to the legislature. Soon thereafter the Whig party was dead and not only in Mississippi. The sole question in the minds of the rampaging secessionists was whether a man should agree with Jefferson on the right of secession or with Madison on the right of revolution, or with both." Carter remarked that, "Neither in Holly Springs nor anywhere else in the South would prevail the persevering, surprisingly strong minority of Southerners who believed in the preservation of the Union." *A Vanishing America*, 63. Similarly, William Baskerville Hamilton observed that "There were still men who called themselves Whigs, but a marked unity of feeling in Holly Springs had driven all men into the fundamentally Democratic conception of the doctrine of state's rights." Hamilton, 29.

² Nearby communities in the southeast part of the county. Cornersville is so named because of its location near the southeastern corner of Marshall County. See *Southern Tapestry*, 105-106.

Franklin Female College opened Wed., Sept. 10, with seventy boarders and a large number of day scholars.

The weather still continues to be excessively dry. Such a season has never been known in this county since its settlement by whites. Some planters expect to get out their crops by Oct. 1, and it is thought the county will not average 400 pounds per acre. The supply of corn is insufficient and the ground so dry turnips will not come up.

SPEECH BY H. W. WALTER

H. W. Walter Esq., "our talented and energetic townsman," made a speech at the courthouse showing that the New Orleans and Holly Springs Railroad was practical and would be built to Holly Springs. It was and now is the Illinois Central.³

According to *The Houston (Texas) Telegraph* hundreds of runaway negroes crossed last year into Mexico.

Several early monuments in Hill Crest Cemetery bear the imprint of J. White, Memphis. He has an ad in this paper and W. H. Fyffe is his local agent.

Loud's Piano Store advertises pianos, melodeons, guitars, and new music.

"A nimble six-pence is better than a slow shilling," is the motto of Johnson & Carey, who advertise ladies' and gentlemen's dress goods, jewelry, etc.

B. A. Myers' Hat Depot on the north side of the square sells hats and caps, and repairs old hats.

"It has been said by someone—who, only God knows—but someone has said it—that I would not deal with or patronize any Union man. This is an infamous and unqualified lie. I am responsible. J. C. Holland."

Anderson & Stith—John H. Anderson and Richard S. Stith—have a law card; office in the Brick Row on the west side of South Center Street. Mr. Anderson was the father of Jno. E.

³ Walter was an indefatigable campaigner for a railroad through Marshall County.

and W. H. Anderson of the present day, and owned and lived on what is now the Experiment Station farm. Henry Stith also has a law card.

Mrs. Amanda Marsh, wife of Wm. Marsh and daughter of Jno. W. Record Esq., of this county died in Memphis, Sept. 4.

Miss Melissa McQueen died Aug. 26 at the residence of Benjamin Cottrell Esq., in Marshall County. Note—Benjamin Cottrell owned a plantation, Sylvestria near Hudsonville, and conducted quite a noted school for girls there. He was

grandfather of the late the Rev. Benjamin C. Gray, who succeeded to the ownership of the land and residence, and it is owned now by his son, John Gray of Holly Springs. The Rev. Mr. Gray was also father of Mrs. Frank Wall and brother of Mrs. Hettie Ross of Holly Springs. Miss McQueen was an orphan and doubtless a pupil in school.

The death of Malcomb McNeil, county policeman, is noted in the paper.

5.

NEWS 77 YEARS OLD AGAIN OF INTEREST.

Local Items Gleaned from *The Mississippi Times*, of Holly Springs,
Dated December 10, 1853, Samuel Benton, Editor,
William Anthony Tucker, Publisher.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (July 31, 1930).¹
A copy of a Holly Springs paper, *The Mississippi Times*, dated December 10, 1853, comes to hand. Samuel Benton was editor and William Anthony Tucker publisher. Located northwest corner of public square.

Benton² was one of the three immortals from Holly Springs who fell in the War of the Sixties, the other two being Kit Mott and James L. Autry. Tucker may have been an ancestor of Mrs. Antoinette Tucker Fouché, now of Memphis.

The paper was devoted to "politics, literature, education, morals, agriculture, science, the arts, and general news."³

A comparative table of the vote for governor for 1851-1853, gave Marshall County pride of place in 1851 as polling the largest vote of any county in the state, 2,730, but Tippah led in 1853 with 2,786. Rogers and McRae were the candidates in 1853.

"Married—On Wednesday evening, the 30th ultimo, at the residence of her father, by the Rev. Dr. Page, Mr. Belton Mickle to Miss Lucy H. Minor."

Mr. and Mrs. Belton Mickle were parents of John M. Mickle, Mrs. W. H. Anderson and [Lucy H. Minor] was the daughter of Mr. Dabney and Mrs. Jane H. Minor of Woodlawn plantation near Salem. The social dictum then permitted a lady only three notices in print—birth, marriage, and death.

Belton Mickle was a civil engineer of the Mississippi Central Railroad (now the I.C.R.R.) then in the process of survey and construction. The late Maj. Brodie Crump was a member of the party.

Benjamin Crump died at his residence near Hickory Flat in Tippah County (now Benton County).

Gordentia Waite, clerk of the probate court advertises the sale of slaves for the estate of William Edwards.

Healy, Holman, Sims and Co., advertise for sealed bids to be received at the Mississippi Central Railroad office in Holly Springs for clearing, grubbing, grading and furnishing crossties between the Tennessee line and Holly Springs (21 miles).

Hannibal Harris, clerk of chancery court and Watson and Craft, solicitors issue notice to non-residents.

John D. Baum and Hiram D. Baum have been granted letters of administration on the estate of Moses Baum.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 15, 1932).

² A lawyer and nephew of Thomas Hart Benton, the U. S. senator from Missouri, Samuel Benton was an old line Whig, but espoused the state's rights movement. As such he was a member of the Mississippi Secession Convention in 1861. Benton County, adjoining Marshall County on the east, was named for him. He was killed July 26, 1864, during the Civil War, in fighting around Atlanta. *Memoirs of Mississippi*, 380-81; Hamilton, 96-97; *Southern Tapestry*, 49, 50, 62, 63, 68.

³ Mississippi papers of this era were full of political discussions. According to Kate Bonner and others, Holly Springs citizens were devoted to political discussions to the exclusion of literature and the arts. Athletics had not yet entered the newspaper as a major section of interest.

Jonathan Boggen is executor of the will of Susan Owen.

Postmaster W. H. Crittenden advertises the arrival and departure of mails—Memphis and river mail, daily; eastern mail, via LaGrange and Tuscumbia, daily; southern mail, three days a week; Aberdeen mail via Pontotoc and Columbus, three days; Ripley mail via Salem, three days; Panola mail, two days; Hernando mail two days. There was no railroad here then, all mails came overland.

A crook seems to have been working the town. Frank & Bros., W. H. Crittenden, E. H. Mitchell, A. Ward, Willis and Logan, R. F. Cook, Peter Malci and W. C. Sutton published a card: "Runaway from Holly Springs, a scoundrel calling himself Wm. M. Barnes, who has swindled the community out of a large sum. He is a painter and grainer of oak, dresses very gaudily and sports considerable jewelry about his person."

The gin house of Maj. H. P. Maxwell of Tippah County, near Salem,¹ was destroyed by fire recently.

The Mobile and Ohio Railroad in this country is progressing finely and all along the line the cry is "still they work."—*Jackson (Tenn.) Whig*.

The Times also notes that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad now runs four trains a day, the way freight alone employing two trains.²

John P. Pryor, James H. Alexander and Fendall Wood, executors of Green Pryor, deceased, offer for sale the homestead of the late Green Pryor, eighteen miles southwest of Holly Springs, on the headwaters of Blackwater, having a new and commodious brick dwelling and 1120 acres of land.

Yellow fever is epidemic in Woodville, Miss., and there are many deaths from cholera in New Orleans.³

¹ The present Benton County, which now incorporates the site of old Salem, was carved from parts of Tippah and Marshall Counties in 1870.

² The B & O was America's oldest railroad, and its line operated from Washington, D. C. to Harper's Ferry and across the mountains to Ohio and points west.

³ Yellow fever reached Holly Springs for the first time in 1878 when a particularly virulent epidemic

Cotton is quoted in New Orleans at 12 ½ cents.

J. S. Davis, S. B. Jones and A. M. Ayers advertise for a teacher for the Masonic Female Academy at Salem.

P. W. Lucas, W. B. Lumpkin, B. D. Matthews, H. H. Harris and D. B. Molloy are a committee to forward names of planters who seek information on the benefits of direct shipment of cotton.⁴

spread as far north as southern Indiana. But New Orleans and south Mississippi contended with the scourge nearly every summer. After the epidemic of 1878, massive involvement from the federal government and public health authorities gradually brought the disease under control, and the last cases in Mississippi (at Lumberton in Pearl River County were reported in 1905). See "The Disappearance of Bronze John in Mississippi," 33-46.

⁴ This was one of the methods used to lobby for a railroad through Marshall County. It was hoped that by shipping cotton directly to New Orleans, the Memphis cotton market and its low offerings could be bypassed altogether. See R. Milton Winter, "Holly Springs Builds a Railroad," *The Green Diamond: Magazine of the Illinois Central Railroad Historical Society* 64 (March 2003): 7-16.

6.

HOLLY SPRINGS NEWS OF 76 YEARS AGO.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (February 12, 1931).¹ Through the kindly loan of a friend I am enabled to make another Old Holly Springs paper the subject of story.

It is *The Empire Democrat* of April 6, 1855, Vol. 1, No. 22, S. M. Allen & Co., proprietors, James H. R. Taylor, editor. The editor was also a lawyer.

I had never heard of *The Empire Democrat* before, but this copy is the newsiest sheet of any antebellum paper I ever saw, more local news, though nothing corresponding to our "City and Vicinity."

The death by his own hand of Col. A. K. McClung, the noted duelist, is recorded in semi-editorial fashion on the front page.

"We regret to learn that this distinguished, chivalrous and noble-souled gentleman died in Jackson, Miss., on Saturday, 24th inst. Full of melancholy woes, possessing a sensitive nature, daily wrought upon the constant remembrance of the many painful incidents of his past life, and urged to the desperate act by a consciousness of the utter blight cast over his happiness by the possession of a disposition uncongenial with life's ambition and quiet aspirations, he met death by his own hands."

Federal Court was then held in Pontotoc, judging from law cards published. Mott & Chalmers is one, composed of C. H. Mott and J. R. Chalmers, west side square above S. E. Carey's. Camp Kit Mott, U. C. V., was named for the first and the latter became a Confederate brigadier general.

N. J. & J. W. Williams was another law firm; the latter was father of Mrs. Lillie Euerstacke and Jim Williams, now of Jackson, Tennessee.

Thomas W. Harris of Harris & Goodman was grandfather of Harris Gholson of this city, and was later in the firm of Featherston, Harris & Watson. R. L. Watson of Upton & Watson, a New Orleans law firm was probably the third member of the firm. Walter Goodman was president of the Mississippi Central Railroad, now the I. C. Road.

Trotter, Freeman & Jones was composed of Judge James F. Trotter, grandfather of Mrs. John Pinkston and Frank Hopkins of this city; George R. Freeman was the husband of the late Mrs. Kate Freeman and grandfather of Miss Kate Freeman Clark. I cannot place Mr. Jones. Their office was "southeast corner of the Square, below Farrell & Mason's."

W. H. Govan was the son of the late Mrs. Mary Pugh Govan; and of a family prominent in Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee. His office was on the northeast corner of the square in the *Democratic Banner* building.

James H. R. Taylor, whose office was on Hernando Street (now West College), was also editor of this paper.

John C. Atkinson had the same line of practice as when "we-uns" knew him—pensions and land bounty.

Lawrence Johnson, whom I knew, was a better scientist than lawyer, and after the war one of the Washington departments got him and he remained there the rest of his life.

Cotton was "worserer" in 1855 than now, Memphis quotation for middling being 8 cents. Flour was: Ohio \$7 to \$8; Missouri \$9 to \$9.50 a barrel. Sugar, brown 5 to 8 cents, loaf 10 to 14 cents, crushed 10 to 12 1-2.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 10, 1931).

Whiskey? Oh Boy! Listen, oh victims of bootleggers—Dean's 28 1-2c; Dexter's 43c, and Bourbon 75c to \$1.50 a gallon.¹

E. F. & J. Mable's Grand Combined Menageries will show at Waterford today, Chulahoma tomorrow and Holly Springs Monday.

The directory of lodges furnishes matter of interest and illustrates what changes have taken place; for example, Tallalosa Lodge No. 128 is given. Tallalosa was a thriving village of that day towards Marianna, and a strong competitor with Holly Springs for the county seat. No sign of the place is left today. Lodge officers were: R. M. Glover, W. M., Jno. Wilson, S. W.; J. U. Dunnivant, J. W.; M. B. Peterson, Treas.; J. D. Collins, Sec; W. R. Davis, S. D.; E. Barley, J. D.; W. Talliferro, S & T. Officers of other Masonic lodges were:

Holly Springs Lodge, No. 35—J. O. Walker, B. S. Fant, S. B. Jones, Jno. Gordon, U. H. Ross, Jno. Brown, G. W. Eubanks, Jno. Swan. U. H. Ross was grandfather of Miss Mary Ross.

Waterford Lodge, No. 141—L. Johnson, J. V. Nunnally, A. Nicholls, Jno. Jeffries, Robert McGowan, B. A. Ford, J. Brooks, R. A. Boen.

Wright Chapter, No. 56, Royal Arch Masons, of Mt. Comfort, Miss.—Jno. W. Wright, Joel Joiner, H. Tyson, I. D. Boo, T. P. Knight, Jno. I. Ingram, Jno. Wilson, A. T. Watson, S. P. Baker, Robert Jamison, Benjamin Price, T. A. Graham, N. Ingram.

Holly Springs Lodge, No. 30., of Odd Fellows was even then hoary with age, having been instituted in 1839 by Dr. Moormon and his team from Salem, a flourishing village in what is now Benton County, and of which no trace remains. The Masonic Lodge there was transferred to Ashland and is still going.

The lodge officers in 1855 were: Samuel Mason, a grand uncle of Mason Jones of Memphis; Jno. Mitchell, father of my boyhood friend,

¹ At the time Mr. Mickle wrote, national prohibition of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages was in effect through the Eighteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, which was ratified in 1919 and enforced by the Volstead Act of 1920—legislation said to have resulted in a flurry of illegal activity to provide the populace with intoxicants they were determined to have.

Henry Mitchell of St. Louis; Israel Sailor, grandfather of Percy and Raymond Anderson; Matthew Hearn, who lived out beyond Rocky Mountain, father of Dock and Bud Hearn; Wm. Finley, father of the late Mrs. M. F. Dunlap.

An election was on and among announced candidates were Benj. L. Milam for sheriff, he was father of Mrs. D. B. Wright; T. M. Yancy for assessor, he lived in the house west of Mrs. D. B. Wright's,² Ben Moss for assessor. The last probably an ancestor of Miss Winnie Moss of Holly Springs, and my friend, Dodge Moss of Memphis.

Marshall County Democrats met here May 26, presided over by the editor, Jas. H. R. Taylor, with Wm. H. Govan secretary. I could make several columns out of the list of delegates, but have room only for their names. My, the history that is tied up in those lists. I feel a strong urge to go out to the graveyard some moonlight night and read them to the silent ones—and, who knows they might still be listening.

Delegates to State Convention—Chas. L. Thomas, A. M. Clayton, J. Hudson, R. S. Greer, J. W. Matthews, M. L. Robinson, J. L. Autry, J. W. Hill, W. M. Lea, Wm. Crump, J. Brown, J. Fant, W. H. Govan, C. H. Mott, W. T. Long, E. F. Potts, T. W. Harris, J. R. Chalmers, Rhodes, J. L. Hoole, Richard Phillips, W. M. Strickland, N. C. Taylor, R. B. Harris, S. Frank, H. H. Chalmers.

District Convention—T. J. Hudson, Dr. J. D. Sale, Dr. J. H. Robinson, J. R. Norfleet, Benj. Moss, Col. Goodrich, J. Cook, Dr. S. Sawyer, J. R. Chalmers, E. J. Bracken, H. Scott, J. J. Meek, Russell Dean, W. K. Crittenden, Dr. D. Pointer, J. F. Trotter, E. W. Upshaw, J. C. Atkinson, Dr. S. M. Allen, Wm. F. Mason, Dr. F. W. Dancy, A. A. Puryear, J. P. McAlexander, Wm. Farrell, D. B. Molloy, J. B. Fant, Leroy Sims, Jno. H. Jeffries, Samuel Frank, Wm. Wallace, R. McGowan, R. L. Watt, Jno. Killough, Jno. V. Nunnally, Luke Wright, D. McNeill, Sr., Jesse Wootten, E. F. Potts, J. H. Withers, T. J. Treadwell, Dr. W. H. Jamison, W. H. Davis, B. A. Ford, G. W. Gill, S. P. Howell, Jno. Nail, D. Lesure, R. H. Malone, Jas. Mooring, W. R. Wilson, R. A. Alvis, W. Oglesby, Henry Greer.

² Now the home of Mrs. Dolly White.

Some of these people lived in what is now a big slice of Benton County, extending from around Michigan City—which, by the way, was called Davis Mills¹ in my boyhood—south, and early back to Ashland. Marshall County had a large area then.²

I feel certain there are printers' errors among these names, but am not sure enough to correct them.

Post Office hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on weekdays. Open Sunday one hour. Arrival and departure of mails: Memphis eastern and southern daily; Hernando closes Sundays and Wednesdays at 7, arrives Tuesdays and Fridays; Panola leaves Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays, arrives Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.³

New Albany leaves Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, arrives, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays; Memphis via Byhalia, leaves Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, arrives Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays; Ripley daily; Cow Creek every Saturday; Bethlehem, arrives Friday, leaves Saturday.

Jas. R. Chalmers, executor of his father, Jos. R. Chalmers, advertises the splendid building lot and grove just east of the residence. This

¹ Michigan City, located eighteen miles northeast Holly Springs on Mississippi Highway 7, lay within the original bounds of Marshall County. The village was born when five men from the state of Michigan came to make their homes and build a flour mill. They organized the Davis Mills Company, buying land from Hugh Davis, the original settler. The town was first called Davis Mills, but in 1878, the name was changed to Michigan City for the home state of the five early settlers. It was the scene of several Civil War engagements.

² The county lines were re-drawn in 1870.

³ In Holly Springs, as in all rural communities, arrival of the daily post was a major event. Preachers condemned Sunday mail trains. There were no post office buildings yet—or home delivery. Mail was handed out over the counter of local stores that were willing to have the postal contract. Thus, at the hour when the mail arrived, a minor social event occurred in each America's cities and towns—all came together to hear what was the latest "news." Belle Strickland captured the scene in Holly Springs in a diary entry for Wednesday, April 8, 1868, noting that, "I went to town yesterday after a copybook, and I happened to go in just as the mail was opened, and it was very much crowded." *Civil War Women*, 167.

would include the Arthur or McDowell Place and possibly more on Salem Avenue, I should think. The Chalmers home occupied the site of the S. R. Crawford home.⁴

C. T. Smith of the firm of C. T. Smith & Bro., takes into the firm his brother Jno. T. in place of his late brother, Jas. H. Smith. They were grand-uncles of Mrs. Etta Seale.

Loud's music store advertises a lot of new music. The only songs I recognized were "Long, Long Weary Day" and "When the Swallows Homeward Fly."⁵

One of the chief features of the paper was a tribute to the late Roger Barton from the pen of Col. David C. Glenn, and the editor, Jas. H. R. Taylor, notes in his preface that when Col. Glenn and he first entered as students the law firm of Barton & Chalmers. "We learned to appreciate his nobleness, his generosity and the greatness of his intellectual endowment."⁶

The Hon. Roger Barton was one of the giants of the Mississippi bar. He was father of the gifted Mrs. Rosa Barton Tyler of Holly Springs, who is spending the winter with her son, Roger Barton Tyler, in Austin, Texas. Two other of his children I knew were Mrs. Mary Barton Clark mother of the late Mrs. Rosa Tunstall, Mrs. Arthur Gholson and W. S. Clark; and also Mrs. Mamie Wright of New Jersey.

⁴ The Chalmers home occupied the site of the William Henry Coxe mansion, to-day's "Airliewood."

⁵ The existence of both book and music stores in Holly Springs of old—and their absence in the present generation—is a commentary on the times. Emma Finley noted in April 1859 that her cousin Sam Finley had "brought on returning the pictures which George bought at Loud's auction—the most amusing was the piper piping to his ladie love & looking so cunningly out of the corner of his eyes at her. The 'Faulty Gentry' kissing his sweetheart goodbye. The Catholic Sister, as I suppose—with her sweet-sorrowful face—her beads & book, etc. etc." *Our Pen Is Tongue*, 67.

⁶ David Chalmers Glenn was born in North Carolina about 1824. He was early sent to Holly Springs to study law with his uncle, Senator Joseph W. Chalmers, and was admitted to the bar at age eighteen. When he was 25, he was elected Attorney General of Mississippi and served two terms. After this service in Jackson, he moved to Harrison County on the Gulf Coast, where he spent the rest of his life. *Bench and Bar of the South and Southwest*, 251-52, 307; Hamilton, 106.

Col. Glenn's tribute is too long for this story, but I take some extracts:

"Though born and reared in Tennessee, Mississippi was his pride and the home of all his strong affections. Her character, her honor and her prosperity were never absent from his thoughts.

"He was for twenty years, and without a rival, the leader of the Democratic party of North Mississippi. Not the party hack or political trickster—he never fought for gain.

"He laid aside his weapons when the conflict was over which called them into play, and if his most determined opponents could then love

and appreciate him as he deserved, you can form some idea of those fascinating qualities which made him the soul and the life of the bar.

"His knowledge was not a mere legal mosaic, a simple memory of cases scattered through the libraries of England and America. I have known no man who was more masterly in his application of general principles to the transactions of men.

"The department of the criminal law was his favorite, and scene of his highest triumphs. There for years he stood alone, and in a practice of twenty years I do not know that he ever failed."

7.

BITS OF HISTORY IN PILE OF OLD PAPERS.

Interesting Ante-Bellum Items in Copies of *The Southern Herald*, Published by Thos. A. Falconer.—Story of a Public Hanging in March, 1859.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (July 25, 1935). Out of a batch of old Holly Springs papers loaned me by Curtis Bray, of Jackson, Tenn., and the Holly Springs C. C. C. Camp,¹ some interesting history is gleaned.

Thos. A. Falconer—many of those old fellows loved to abbreviate Thomas that way—was editor and publisher of *The Southern Herald*, and seemed hard to find a publication day to suit. In 1859 it was on Saturday, and in 1860 he had changed to Friday. He was still living in my youth, with his wife and sons, Howard, Kinloch and Henry, and daughter Sophronia, and their residence was the present Francisco Apartments on Maury Street.²

Looking back, it should have been sheer delight to pay taxes in 1859, yet a few didn't indulge. Sheriff John R. McCarroll publishes a short tax sale, one item, an estate for \$43.74, most run from \$1.59 to \$8.10.³

Lucius Dancy's drug store has been a drug store since long before the war (of the '60s, of course). John McGuirk & Co., occupied it in 1859, and were up-to-date with a cut of the building with a big eagle on top.⁴

Yellow journalism had not come in. *The Southern Herald* of March 5, 1859, "covered" the execution of Mask, a white man, thus:

¹ This was the Civilian Conservation Corps, a depression-era government program.

² This is the house of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gilstrap at 140 North Maury Street that was given the name "White Pillars" by a former owner, Dr. J. A. Hale. The house was bricked by a subsequent owner.

³ In old Mississippi, the sheriff was also the tax collector.

⁴ This store was located in the building which stands at the southeast corner of Memphis Street and Van Dorn Avenue.

"Pleasant M. Mask was hung yesterday in the presence of the largest gathering of people ever congregated in Holly Springs."

The execution was public, and took place on the northeast side of Rocky Mountain.

The parish record of Christ Church carries the note that Mask's funeral took place from the church that afternoon. The Rev. Dr. J. H. Ingraham, author of *Prince of the House of David* was rector then.

The paper carries four-and-a-half columns of premiums and other information for the second annual fair of the Marshall County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, October 25-29, 1859. (The Holly Springs C. C. C. Camp is located on the old fair grounds.) Dabney Minor, the president, was my grandfather.

The Southern Herald of April 23, 1859, continued a list of delegates to the Democratic district convention to be held in Holly Springs in June 1859, representative men of that day.⁵ Marshall County was larger than now and delegates M. D. Robinson (Mrs. S. W. Mullins grandfather) and Dabney Minor in District 2 lived well into what is now Benton County. The county board was called police instead of supervisors. The delegates were:

District 1—Dr. Willis M. Lea, James McFadden, E. W. Upshaw, Asa Goodwyn, John B. Fant, James Pegues, C. H. Mott, Dr. D. Pointer (he built the beautiful brick house that later was

⁵ Hodding Carter summed up the political positions of the day by remarking that "the more conservative leadership of the old Whigs had been supplanted for a decade before the outbreak of the war by that of the no-compromise Democrats." *A Vanishing America*, 63.

Bethlehem Academy and the second St. Thomas Hall), John Record and W. A. P. Jones.

District 2—John L. Hudson, M. D. Robinson, J. Y. Cummings, Dabney Minor, D. Rogers, T. G. Gatewood, A. M. Lyles, N. Kirby, R. A. Treadwell and John Peel.

District 3—Wilson Durham, Anderson Arnold, T. K. Young, J. R. Taggart, J. S. Rogers, S. M. Harris, William Rhodes, J. D. Sales, W. A. Davis and W. T. Ivy.

District 4 — John Kellough, Malsherbes Jones, T. J. Hardin, J. H. Miller, Samuel Kelsoe, W. H. Hancock, Russell Dean, M. F. Wilkins, B. L. Milam and J. W. Wooten.

District 5—W. R. Wilson, J. W. Logan, R. McGowan, Jr., William A. Poe, J. Morgan, J. H. Smith, D. McNeill, Sr., James B. Potts, James Rodery and Caleb Cox.

The editor gratefully acknowledges a copy from a Memphis firm of *The Pillar of Fire*, by the Rev. J. H. Ingraham.

The death last month is noted of W. W. Hawks in San Francisco, son of the Rev. Dr. Frank Hawks. Dr. Hawks was a former rector of Christ Church and founder of the old St. Thomas Hall.

Mt. Pleasant had a strong Masonic Lodge then, and a committee, composed of R. H. Cleere, J. W. Ivy and J. B. Hunter, report resolutions on the death of Bro. J. R. Norfleet. J. W. Ivy was father of the late Jesse Ivy.

Resolutions for the memory of their late schoolmates in Byhalia Female Institute were signed by Pierson B. Taggart, chairman, Henrie B. Suggs, secretary; Fannie L. Hudley, Fannie M. Hawkins, Mary D. Arnold, Annie S. Ingram, Lizzie Castleberry, committee.

"The iron, we are informed, is laid down on the Mississippi Central Railroad, four miles this side of Coffeeville, and the work is rapidly progressing.—*Grenada Republican*, 16th inst."¹

¹ The Panic of 1857 strained the resources of the nascent railroad. In 1858 there was a suspension of track laying for want of iron, though grading and bridging went bravely on. An 86-mile gap remained between Water Valley and Canton, which had to be

traversed by stagecoach. The English-American financier George Peabody was induced to provide enough rail to complete the line. Gradually the line was completed southward, and finally, on January 31, 1860, the union was made, and the telegrapher ticked out the long-awaited message: "The last rail was laid in the Mississippi Central Railroad south of Winona at 12 o'clock noon today." Colonel Walter, who had turned the first spade seven years before and for whom the first locomotive was named, drove the last spike before a cheering crowd. Everybody got drunk, the whites on champagne, and the blacks on "old red likker"—this being the southern way of celebrating any great event. See R. Milton Winter, "Holly Springs Builds a Railroad."

8.

DRAMATIC CONDITIONS HERE 74 YEARS AGO.

Copy of *The Independent South*, of Holly Springs, Volume 1, No. 12,
Dated March 28, 1861, Tells Many Things of Much Interest.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (June 27, 1935). Curtis Bray, of Jackson, Tenn., member of the Holly Springs Veterans' C. C. C. Camp, has kindly loaned me some antebellum Holly Springs newspapers.

The Independent South, Volume 1, No. 12 is a new paper, published by Smith, Gray & Co.—W. Thomas Smith, Baylis E. Gray and D. Emmett Clayton. Date, Thursday morning, March 28, 1861.

The curtain is slowly rising upon the great drama of the "War Between the States," and news is ominous. The front page is entirely taken up with the "Constitution of the Confederate States of America."

The Home Guards, Thomas W. Harris (Harris Gholson's grandfather), captain, and the Jeff Davis Rifles, Samuel Benton, captain, have been recruited up and are "rarin' to go." Rosters of both companies are published.

Capt. Benton got a telegram Saturday night ordering him to be ready this morning to march to Pensacola; and Capt. Harris received similar orders Monday—so today they are off.

The editor has a "Goodbye 'till We Meet Again" editorial, and again, a note asking the indulgence of readers, as the editor and co-editor, D. E. Clayton, are off today with the volunteers.

The Southern Herald, too, Thomas A. Falconer, editor, has a note in *The South* that there will be no issue this week as the editors and two compositors are gone with the troops.

"Owing to the political excitement and everybody leaving for the war, the circuit court adjourned last Monday without transacting any business."

Featherston, Harris & Watson is a law firm, though all are in the army now. W. S. (later General) Featherston (father of D. M. Featherston), Thomas W. Harris and R. L. (Dick) Watson (who died in the yellow fever of 1878).

Kit Mott and James L. Autry compose another law firm, both in the army and later died heroic deaths.

J. W. Clapp and A. G. Mills is another, but both too old for the army. Judge Clapp was father of Lucas Clapp—Holly Springs' first Memphis mayor. Judge Mills was uncle, I believe, of the late David McDowell.

J. T. Whitehead was a partner in the firm of Pledge, Moore & Co., owners of the Marble Emporium at Grand Junction, Tenn., and Grenada, Miss., have an advertisement.

Whitehead was a partner in a marble yard here after the war, and built the lower half of the Confederate monument in Hill Crest Cemetery. He moved to Jackson, Tenn., and built the large Confederate monument in the courthouse square there.¹

¹ Every prosperous city desired a skilled tombstone carver, and Holly Springs was no exception. Grand Junction, Tennessee also had a marble works—no doubt due to the small community's proximity to the railroads—and Emma Finley told of her inspection of the stone mason's work during a young people's outing to Grand Junction in the spring of 1859. She wrote, "There wasn't much to be seen—that's a fact, but it was a relief to be out of doors, and yes—there was the marble establishment where we saw some beautiful carving and many designs.—the artist says he is going to have some tombstones on exhibition at our next Fair." *Our Pen Is Time*, 76. A tombstone cutter's shop is still a prominent part of the scene on Tennessee Highway 57 at the once famous "Grand Junction" in Tennessee.

W. B. Bradbury was associated with Mr. Whitehead in Jackson before he came here to live.¹

An Englishman, Mr. Whitehead served in the Confederate army, was captured and paroled and—as most of them did—immediately re-enlisted, an offense punishable with death in all armies. He was recaptured and told the Federals he was going to see his sick grandmother.

Taken before Gen. W. T. Sherman, then campaigning in Mississippi, the general said, without looking up from his writing: "Send an officer and four men, if his story is true release him; if false, hang him to the first tree."

Mr. Whitehead rode with the officer, the men some distance ahead. "You might as well stop and hang me," said Mr. Whitehead. "I haven't a grandmother."

"I thought as much," smiled the officer. "You beat it up that road, I'll have to shoot at you, but I won't hit you."

¹ W. B. Bradbury moved to Holly Springs from Jackson, Tennessee in 1887. He was employed by Jim Carson who operated a monument business on the south side of Depot Street, in the building later occupied by the Greer & White Insurance Agency. Bradbury later purchased the business and moved it to the northwest corner of the square where the post office now stands. There was a frame building there in which a character known as Governor Jones formerly operated a saloon. In those days the stone and marble were shipped in rough, so that further work was necessary. Bradbury employed Emmett and Tiny Brinkley, Aubrey McCanson, Lansing Armstrong, and two or three black men. Billy Malone was in charge of the Negro workers. Adam Preher was the marble cutter. James Fort Daniel wrote that "he was a real artist and some of his beautiful work is seen in our cemetery to-day, especially the monument erected at his daughter's grave. Preher did his work free-hand." *Marshall Messenger Pilgrimage Edition* (April 1980). In part because of Preher's work, contemporary writers remark that Holly Springs has "a sculpture garden in the beautiful, park-like setting of Hill Crest Cemetery." Lois Swanee, "Hill Crest Cemetery," *Holly Springs South Reporter* (April 13, 2000).

9.

MUCH GOING ON HERE WEEK OF AUG. 2, 1861.

The Southern Herald, Holly Springs, of That Date, Bristles With Items of Intense Interest to Ancestors of Many Present Residents.

A copy of *The Southern Herald* of August 2, 1861, published at Holly Springs, was lent to me by Curtis Bray of Jackson, Tenn., here in the Holly Springs C. C. C. camp.

The War Between the States is now on, and the First Battle of Manassas, or Bull Run, as the North called it, has been fought. Our boys from Holly Springs are growing restive with inactivity and fear the war will be over before they can get in it, and the Virginia boys have all the glory.

My father told me that some deserted, re-enlisting in Virginia. The military authorities secretly admired their spirit and sympathized with them; so nothing was done about it.

The Church Militant, The North Mississippi Presbytery, assembled in Holly Springs, adopted some salty resolutions, dissolving its relations with the General Assembly, which had met in May in Philadelphia and passed strong resolutions of loyalty to Union.

The Presbytery recorded its vote for a Southern General Assembly on December 4 in the First Presbyterian Church in Augusta, Ga.¹

¹ The new Holly Springs Presbyterian Church was in use for the meeting which dissolved ties to the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (Old School). A committee, including Thomas L. Dunlap, M.D., of Holly Springs, was appointed to draw up a resolution of secession, which declared that "the action of the Assembly above mentioned was so unnecessary, unconstitutional, tyrannical, and insulting to Southern Presbyterians as to make it inconsistent with a becoming self-respect and our sense of duty to the church and to the Government under which we now live to continue any longer in the relationship heretofore existing." Dr. Dunlap was a commissioner to the new General Assembly's constituting session in Augusta. *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 173-74. Similar meetings were held in Christ Church in April 1861, whereby the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi severed its ties to the national Church. The action came in re-

I thought the Absent Ballot was a modern plan, but the Mississippi Legislature has passed a law authorizing all volunteers, whether in or out of the state, who were entitled to vote, to do so.

Many voters called on the Hon. Robert S. Greer to run for the state senator. He lived near Chulahoma and was well known in Mississippi. He was father of the late Mrs. Polly Greer Greene.

Any person who wishes to go into active service, a good company, should apply to E. J. Wilkerson. He was grandfather of Grover Knott, and got up his company.

Now here is news. "We, the ladies of Holly Springs" petition the City Alerts to remain and "continue their watchful care over us and ours," instead of leaving. The list of signers present a good cross section of the femininity of Holly Springs—mothers and grandmothers of quite of number of us. They are divided into groups of Mrs. and Miss.

Mrs. J. W. C. Watson (a grand old lady), Hugh Craft, Dr. Smith, John McGuirk, Jenny Nelson, Stephen Knapp, M. Hamner, A. H. Haskins, Kate Freeman, L. H. Mickle, Dabney Minor, M. J. Roberts, Jesse Norfleet, M. H. Tucker, Bob Walker, James Manning.

Mrs. J. B. Mattison, Jackson, Falconer, McCarroll, T. J. Ross, Raiford, Warren Caldwell, R. Dowell, M. Heathcott, Ann D. Moore, S. Frank, D. Pointer, M. A. Diggs, M. Z. Barry, E. H. A.

sponse to a vigorous pastoral letter by the Rt. Rev. William Mercer Green, D.D., bishop of Mississippi, who urged his flock to pray for the governor and legislature of Mississippi instead of the president and Congress of the United States. *Vicksburg Whig* (January 2, 1861); see *The Episcopal Church in Mississippi, 1773-1992*, 40-41.

McClughlin, Jesse Lewellen,¹ C. J. Athey,² J. D. Thompson, M. A. Willis, Dr. P. A. Willis.

Mrs. L. A. Yancey, E. B. Edmondson, Pugh Govan, Eliza Chism, King, Sol Rhine, Leroy Sims, Ann D. Crump, Dr. Matthews, J. Abston, George Garner, James F. Trotter, N. H. Logan, G. H. Logan, Mary Lane, N. B. Shepherd, George Garner, Ross, T. Lane, Willis Bishop, Bettie Hutcherson, Fanny Tepe, R. L. Watt, M. Wynne, E. H. Mitchell, M. Z. Manning.

Misses Lizzie Watson, A. L. McCarroll, Sallie McCarroll, Mary McCarroll, W. A. Myers, J. V. Little, Annie Smith, Ella Douglas, J. Edmondson, E. C. Polk, M. V. Campbell, Anna H. Ross, Susan Hull, Bettie Hull, Alice Matthews, Julia Matthews, Sallie Pointer, Alice Wynne, Betty Douglas, Ludie Baugh.³

Ada Norfleet, Cooper, Ella Tucker, Bettie Tucker, Sophronia Falconer, F. Wheatly, Mattie Logan, Lizzie McConnico, Mary McConnico, M. McCrosky, Dollie Hicks, Irene Hicks, Stella Craft, J. Lewellyn, Sallie Hamner, Helen Craft, Mary Hamner, Lou Hamner,⁴ Betsy Clapp, Matthy Mahaffy, Augusta Finley, Mattie Kirby, M.

¹ Jesse Lewellen, a surveyor and probate clerk for Marshall County, built the house at 185 South Randolph Street in 1854, known to-day as "Tarkio," and presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henderson Milan.

² The wife of J. H. Athey, a druggist, in whose account book for 1871-1872, a listing of materials is given for the construction of his Italianate-style house, known to-day as "Heritage," which stands at 485 East Salem Avenue, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Utley. The house, tall and narrow, with an almost-flat roof, suggests a style that was popular in New Orleans during this period.

³ The daughter of Colonel Richard Baugh, mayor of Memphis (1857-1861), and niece of Sheriff John R. McCarroll of Holly Springs, Ludie Baugh was sent to live with her relatives here during the war. A window pane in the old McCarroll Place may still be seen where one day Ludie scratched her name into the glass with a diamond—as, so family tradition says, Union soldiers camped outside. William Faulkner, who visited McCarroll Place, likely heard the story and may have used it as the basis for scenes in his short stories *The Unvanquished*, *Intruder in the Dust*, and *Requiem for a Nun*. See Jane Isbell Haynes, "Another Source for Faulkner's Inscribed Window Panes," *Mississippi Quarterly: The Journal of Southern Culture* 39 (Summer 1986): 365-67; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 188.

⁴ Sallie and Lou Hamner were daughters of Morris and Mrs. Mary W. Hamner. The Hamner Place, a two-story frame cottage built about 1850, still stands at 280 South Memphis Street.

Arnold, Hulda Lane, Carrie Smith, Cary Freeman, Jennie Molloy, Bettie Shepherd, M. Shepherd, Jennie Holland, Lou H. Barry.⁵

Note—to ensure identity, Miss Carrie Smith, later Mrs. James M. Crump, was the mother of Dabney H. Crump of Memphis.

⁵ Martha Mildred Thomson Strickland wrote of the heady days when the soldiers marched off to war. She told her husband, February 25, 1862: "Brown's Company leaves here tomorrow. Will Watson has been elected captain. I do not want them all to go so much." Women were not the only ones who vainly urged young men to remain at home, although they may have felt freer to express this opinion publicly. On April 24, 1861, P. H. Jenkins, of Chulahoma, penned this impassioned plea to his younger brother Peter, a student at the Presbyterian Synodical College in LaGrange, Tennessee: "In answer to your enquiry, whether you should leave college for the Army I say emphatically, No! There is no necessity for you to do so. As you have asked my advice in this matter, you will most certainly follow it, when it is given. Again I say, Stay! Stay!! And prosecute your studies..." Of course these appeals went unheeded. *Civil War Women*, 274; Jenkins Letters, Marshall County Historical Museum. Once the war got under way, many women were keen for their men to fight. Robert B. Alexander told in his diary of visiting Mrs. Sally Martin on February 12, 1862, where he "heard her rage & fuss about the men not going to the war. Said every man that did not go should have a petticoat put on him."

10.

NEWS WHEN *THE REPORTER* WAS YOUNG.

Carpetbag Government Denies Mississippians Right of Election.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (November 26, 1936). I am indebted to my friend, John McAlexander, of Mack, for the loan of a copy of *The Holly Springs Reporter*, of Friday, October 16, 1868, Columbus Barrett, formerly of Mt. Pleasant, proprietor. Volume 3, No. 52—close of its third year.

The Board of Police (Supervisors) at its meeting directed the sheriff to collect 50 cents per bale, 100 per cent of the state tax, on all cotton raised in the county in 1868.¹

A committee was directed to confer with and allow the Methodist Church \$300 *per annum* for the use of the basement for court purposes.²

Col. John B. Fant, president of the board, was appointed to cast the vote of the county on the stock of the county and school funds at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Central Railroad Company. Note: Headquarters of the road had been in Holly Springs until shortly after the War of the Sixties, but had now been moved to Water Valley where the meeting was to be held.³

Okolona voted October 9 on an issue of bonds, \$25,000 to \$50,000, for stock in the proposed Memphis, Holly Springs, Okolona and Selma Railroad. Result had not been learned.

The murderer of Gen. Hindman of Helena, Ark., (uncle of John S. Doxey) has not been discovered.

The Post Office Department has created Canton, Oxford, Okolona, and Brandon "money order post offices."

In circuit court W. H. Thomason, charged with the murder of Jesse C. Tucker, last spring, was found guilty as charged. The state was represented by Col. George E. Harris, district attorney, and Watson & Manning; Col. H. W. Walter, Gen. W. S. Featherston and Col. Thomas W. Harris for the defense.

John Ragsdale, aged 83, native of Charlottesville, Va., died on the 29th ult., at the residence of James J. House in this city. He moved to Panola County in the early settlement of North Mississippi, later going to New Orleans. Burial was in Panola County.

Isaac Wheatley, aged 50, died October 8 at his residence (now partly incorporated in the Tyson Apartments.) He leaves, besides his widow, three daughters (one of whom was the second Mrs. Dr. J. R. Dougherty).⁴

Coonie, son of D. F. and Mary E. McAlexander, aged one year and eleven months, died October 2 at the residence of [Walter R.] Cox, north of Holly Springs. Little Coonie was brother of the late Ed L. McAlexander and uncle of John McAlexander.

Col. Dixon C. Topp and A. Q. Withers have been appointed commissioners by the corporators to solicit subscriptions in Marshall County in money or lands for the Memphis, Holly Springs, Okolona, Aberdeen and Selma Railroad.⁵

¹ Tax rates were increased precipitously during the reconstruction period, causing many to lose their lands and income.

² This was a generous sum, in an era when ministerial salaries for a year did not reach one thousand dollars.

³ See R. Milton Winter, "The Mississippi Central and the Illinois Central."

⁴ A photo of the old Wheatley Place may be seen in Miller-Smith, 41.

⁵ This was a predecessor to the Kansas City, Memphis & Birmingham Railroad that reached Holly Springs from Memphis in 1885.

Capt. J. B. Mattison has the only hardware store in town.¹ George M. Govan has opened a grocery store, southwest corner of the square, under *The Reporter* office.

B. W. Walhall, clerk, publishes a citation notice to Frank Wall, whose post office is Greenbrier, Tenn., to appear before the probate court in regard to the division of the lands of Robert H. Wall, deceased.²

Mohun, the new novel by John Estern Cook, author of *Surry of Eagles' Nest*, is on sale.³

We are indebted to Sam Kinkle, a clever and industrious freedman, living at Gen. Thomas M. Mosley's near Holly Springs, for two of his excellent "Confederate Brooms;" they are strong, substantial and neat.⁴

The sisters of Nazareth Academy, Bardstown, Ky., advertise they have opened Sept. 21, a first-class school for young ladies (Bethlehem

¹ Born in New York City in 1836, Joseph B. Mattison came to Holly Springs before the Civil War and went into business with Lewis Scruggs. Emma Finley told her diary of a day in September 1858 when: Gus & I...called at Mattison & Scruggs to see a piece of the Atlantic Cable. It isn't much larger than my thumb—seemingly a frail bond to unite such vast empires and through nineteen hundred & fifty statute miles of water." Mattison moved his family to Crawfordsville, Indiana, in 1872, but returned to the Holly Springs three years later, remaining in the city until his death in 1910. Elected an elder in 1865, he was clerk of the session in the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church from 1888 to 1910, serving in this capacity longer than any other in the history of the church. The Mattisons lived in a house once owned by Thomas Falconer, known to-day as "White Pillars." It stands at the northwest corner of Maury Street and Falconer Avenue. See *Historic Architecture in Mississippi*, 158-59.

² Robert Hicks Wall was an early settler. His plantation was called "Cloverland." Hamilton, 134; *Southern Tapestry*, 107.

³ After the Civil War, Heber Craft operated a bookstore affiliated with the Philadelphia publisher J. B. Lippincott in the historic building at 152 North Memphis Street, now the dental office of Dr. Beth Stennett. *Prodigal Daughter*, 18-19; see photos, *Southern Tapestry*, 143.

⁴ An energetic community of freed slaves sprang up in reconstruction-era Holly Springs. Those who wished to thrive sought to demonstrate their solidarity with the sympathies of whites. Henry Polk, a shoemaker mentioned elsewhere in these pages, was another enterprising free black who established a successful business in the city.

Academy), and no solicitations will be used to change the religious principles or creed of the pupils.⁵ Board and tuition in the common branches \$88 per session of five months.

Fénelon Hall, William Clark, principal, school for young ladies (occupying the present residences of Mrs. Rosa Tyler, of Austin, Texas, and C. W. Bonds),⁶ will charge \$129 for board, washing, incidentals, tax and tuition, including Latin and Greek, for five months' session.

Samuel Irwin Reid⁷ is principal of Chalmers Institute—school for boys (now Mrs. DeBerry's home), also takes boarders, which it abandoned later. Athey's Drug Store (L. H. Dancey's) and J. F. Butler and Co. (now Tyson Drug Co.) were the advertising drug stores.

The Democratic Executive Committee of Mississippi passed resolutions that while the people of Mississippi are ready and willing to vote in the presidential election, they have been officially informed by the general commanding the 4th District that acting under the authority of the law of Congress he will not order, and they have evidence he will not permit, an election to be held in the State of Mississippi; and they would not provoke violence by attempting to present a ticket.

⁵ Roman Catholics found it difficult to pursue their mission in predominately Protestant cultural settings such as Holly Springs. However, one of the chief patrons of Bethlehem Academy was Col. H. W. Walter, who in 1865 was listed among the communicants of the city's Christ Church (Episcopal).

⁶ The two houses on the south side of College Avenue just east of Old St. Joseph's Church.

⁷ The Rev. Samuel Irwin Reid (1819-1899), a native of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, who studied at Washington and Jefferson College and Western Theological Seminary in that state, came to Mississippi in 1846 as a missionary from the Transylvania Presbytery in Kentucky. After teaching at Chalmers Institute for several years, he purchased the school in 1857 and operated it until it closed during the Civil War. When the war ended, Reid reopened Chalmers, continuing to teach there until 1869. He also served rural Presbyterian congregations in Marshall and Lafayette Counties. On April 22, 1868, Bella Strickland reported an evening service conducted by Reid, in which he preached until ten o'clock. She said, "I became very sleepy, and so did some others that were there." He and Mrs. Reid, who died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878, with five children who died in infancy, are buried in Hill Crest Cemetery. *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 103-104, 117; *Civil War Women*, 176-77.

11.

CAPTURE OF \$500 COTTON PRIZE BY MARSHALL COUNTY AT 1869 FAIR.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (May 5, 1932).¹ Mississippi and Marshall County were the high spots in cotton at the St. Louis Fair in 1869 when 363 bales from the cotton belt were in contest for \$1,000 sweepstakes and \$500 for the best bale from each state. Mr. Yeager, of Edwards Depot, Miss., won the sweepstakes, and Capt. A. L. Hill of Lamar, "in this county" (Lamar and Michigan City—then known as Davis' Mills—were then in Marshall County) won the \$500.² Capt. Hill missed by the committee's vote of 17 to 10 getting the sweepstakes.

This news is taken from *The Independent South* of October 17, 1872, Vol. 3, No. 8, published by Col. E. W. Upshaw and his son, A. B. (Bud) Upshaw. Col. Upshaw gave his life in the yellow fever of 1878. Alexander Bradford Upshaw later edited a paper in Columbia, Tenn., studied law; and was assistant attorney general in Cleveland's first administration, and was practicing law in New York City, when he died.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter* (December 15, 1932 and June 26, 1941).

² This portion of the county had been one of the chief cotton producing areas until the destruction of the Civil War. The LaGrange highway which made its way through Hudsonville and Lamar was once the site of many plantations. The road saw troop movements by Sherman and Grant, as well as Confederate forces, so that by war's end all but two or three of the plantations had been broken up, the fences destroyed, houses burned, and the land left fallow to erode. In her diary, Cora Watson, a Confederate soldier's widow residing in Holly Springs, corroborates scenes described by many observers: "Thursday, June 1, 1865 [en route to Tennessee]: Father was not well, and Cousin Charles drove me up to-day. The ride was not a pleasant one, if physical comfort be taken into consideration, though I enjoy the society of Cousin Charles and Cousin George. Cousin Charles showed me the scene of his capture, and gave me a full account of it. The Yankees have destroyed the houses so on the road that we could get no water to drink, and ate dinner without any." See *Civil War Women*, 127. The resumption of cotton production was, therefore, a matter of great economic importance, as well as a boon to local pride.

Horace Greeley of New York and B. Gratz Brown of St. Louis were candidates for president and vice-president on the Reform Ticket, and were supported by the whites in the South. Gen. Grant was Republican candidate for president.

Thomas M. Moseley (lived on Coldwater) signs as chairman a list of speakings in Marshall County by Col. Kinloch Falconer and E. P. Albritton, county electors for Greeley and Brown, and Henry House, colored Conservative.³ Lamar and Tyro, then in Marshall County, were included. Henry House was later a Democrat.

Carpetbaggers are in the saddle, negroes held office and political notices showed a strange mix-up.⁴ T. A. McNeil (I can't place him), B. F. Phillips (negro) and Henry C. Myers, registrars, order that "disorderly persons disturbing the peace in city, town, or place where the election shall be held, shall be placed in jail or otherwise kept in custody, being permitted while in such custody to vote, until the polls are closed. Henry Myers was later Democratic sheriff, and subsequently Secretary of State. Ben Phillips died a few years ago.

IN A RACE FOR MAYOR

City politics was also hot stuff. Col. A. W.

³ Certain black candidates attempted to curry favor with white voters by abandoning the Republican Party and running on tickets such as this. Henry House had been a slave of James Jarrell House, mentioned elsewhere in these pages. Henry House had been a domestic servant and was taught to read by his mistress. After a torchlight procession in one of the campaigns, the Democrats, in appreciation of House's services, took up a collection and bought for him a small home, about one and one-half miles from the city. "Reconstruction in Mississippi," 165.

⁴ For an excellent study of Holly Springs during this period, see Ruth Watkins, "Reconstruction in Marshall County," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society* 12 (1912): 155-212.

Goodrich, Judge B. G. Lawrence (Republican,¹ I believe), proprietor of the Lawrence House now Travelers' Inn—and uncle of the late Ben Lawrence), and Jas. W. Williams (father of the late Dr. Nat and Jim Williams) were candidates for mayor; and A. T. Chalmers candidate for alderman. Friends of Dr. S. C. Gholson (4th Ward) and Dr. J. F. Butler would like to see them run for alderman. Dr. Gholson's office is now Dr. Henry's office and his residence the present Billingsley House. Dr. Butler's drug store was where Tyson's Drug Store is now, and his residence where E. C. Greene lives.²

The death is chronicled, but no date, of Malsherbes Jones, "one of the oldest and best citizens of Marshall County," who came here in 1841 from Georgia, and a year later married the daughter of Col. Brantley Suggs. Mr. Jones was father of Bunk Jones who loaned me these papers) and uncle of the late Egbert R. Jones.³

Wiley C. Buffaloe died October 15 at the residence of his father, B. B. Buffaloe. He was brother of George W. Buffaloe, now of Oxford.

Minnie, five-year-old daughter of J. L. and Josephine Walker, died October 14.

The Hon. Charles T. Bond, of Union County died October 15.

L. C. Abbott, office in courthouse and residence the old Craft home, now Mrs. Chesley

¹ As Hodding Carter notes, some local citizens who had been Whigs before the war turned after the war to the Republican party out of principle. He noted that "Others, of course, wanted the offices that the Republicans could give." *A Vanishing America*, 68.

² This house, now demolished, stood on Memphis Street, one block north of the square. See photo of E. C. Greene in *Southern Tapestry*, 92.

³ Malsherbes (or according to his tombstone Malerb) Jones (1818-1872) married in 1841 Miss Clementine Sugg, daughter of Colonel Brantley Sugg. The Joneses lived at Marianna immediately north of the Marianna store in the old residence once owned by Dr. Sam P. McClatchy. The structure is perhaps the only two-story log house left in the county. Before the Civil War, it was sheathed in clapboard and given Greek Revival woodwork and a two-story portico. The plantation, which was named "Oak Grove," fell to the Jones' daughter Medora, the wife of Joseph Addison Johnson, who is buried in a cemetery to the rear of the house. Hubert H. McAlexander to R. Milton Winter, October 24, 2002.

Daniel's, acting for the bankers, Messrs. Green, of Jackson, Miss., advises planters or other parties who paid the United States taxes on cotton in 1865-66 or '68 to see him at once about a refund. No proof of loyalty, receipts for taxes paid, or any other evidence required. Mr. Abbott was a carpetbagger judge.⁴

Dr. D. M. Lawrence and Dr. Lea A. Stephenson, dentists, dissolve partnership, (Dr. Stephenson, uncle of the late Ed McAlexander of Mack) will carry on in the office over I. C. Levy & Co.'s store, now Lucas Furniture Co.

Podesta, Malatesta & Co., of Memphis, wholesale candy manufacturers, advertise.⁵ They also keep whiskey, imported London porter, Scotch ale and fireworks. When I was a boy they furnished the fireworks for some Democratic event—the biggest fireworks display I ever saw here. They were shot from the courthouse roof, and as the bottle was passed between rounds some wag would say: "Mr. Podesta, I protest." But they didn't turn down the drink.

Turner H. Lane, Israel Sailor (grandfather of Raymond Anderson and Mrs. Janie Calame) and A. W. West, Jr., (uncle of L. A. Smith, Sr.), have returned from the North with large stocks of goods in their lines. O. J. Quiggins has returned from New Orleans with a full stock of confectionery, etc.

MARSHALL HOUSE FOR RENT

Ben R. Long advertises for rent the Marshall House, formerly Thomas House. It stood opposite the present H. S. Marble Works and was

⁴ For some time after Hugh Craft's death in 1867 and December of 1876, the Crafts rented the house out, Mrs. Craft living with her son Addison until her death in 1874. Liberty C. Abbott, of Ohio, came to Marshall County in 1870. He was popular with Republican leaders and made the county superintendent of education in 1871. He also held the offices of assistant internal revenue assessor, justice of the peace, county administrator, and assistant tax collector. In 1874, he was appointed chancellor of the Holly Springs district, having been admitted to the bar only a few days before. He later moved to Holmes County, where he became a Democrat. "Reconstruction in Mississippi," 170.

⁵ Joe Gray Taylor writes that children of the Old South might get candy at Christmas, but were unlikely to taste it at other times unless some relative liked to make candy. *Eating, Drinking, and Visiting in the South*, 43.

known as the Coyle Hotel when it was destroyed by fire in the early nineties.¹

Under the head, "Immigration," the Marshall Co. I. A. S. at Waterford meets every Saturday, the Hudsonville I. A. S. at "the Depot" every Friday (Hudsonville has been known locally as "the Depot")² and Lamar I. A. S. every Saturday. Several Granges in the county have gone to work to bring the immigration.

"Cotton is as high in this city as it is in Memphis."³

Dr. A. B. Ross, the expert dentist surgeon, has reduced his prices for plate work "to accord with the times."⁴

E. W. Upshaw, J. M. Anderson and J. P. Norfleet, committee, report resolutions to the Masonic Lodge on the death of Bro. J. M. Farrington.

Henry Ormsby, a jolly Irishman, advertises his large stock of groceries at "the Depot"⁵—Holly Springs this time; that's what they used to call the railroad station, until the "high hats" introduced "station."⁶

¹ This hotel was located on College Avenue a block west of the square.

² In an era when gentlemen wore top hats and great coats and almost everyone rode the railroad with a pistol at his side, the poker games in the Hudsonville depot were said to have the highest stakes of any point up and down the Illinois Central. See *Southern Tapestries*, 108.

³ Local planters had long chafed under the domination of Memphis cotton buyers who determined the price that would be paid for cotton brought to their markets. One of the reasons for building the Mississippi Central Railroad had been so that Marshall County planters could take their cotton to other markets, thus inducing the cotton factors of Memphis to value their North Mississippi customers more. It appears that the psychology may have worked. See "Holly Springs Builds a Railroad."

⁴ There had been a nationwide financial panic in 1869.

⁵ Separated from the square by a mile, there was once a thriving little business district around the depot, of which Phillips Grocery is now the sole surviving reminder.

⁶ Railroad terminology is exactly opposite of the nomenclature that prevailed among the "high-hats" to whom Mr. Mickle refers. According to Hans and April Halberstat, in their classic study of American railroad depots, "there is an important difference between what a railroad calls a station and what they call a depot. A

C. H. BUTT ADVERTISES

C. H. Butt, having rented the large and commodious storeroom formerly occupied by D. J. Oliver, advertises a complete stock of groceries. He later moved to Vaiden and was a banker there when he died some years ago. He was the uncle of Mrs. L. G. Fant, Mrs. Thomas Finley and Miss Margaret Leach.

Abernathy & Arneman, stoves, tinware, etc., were located in what is now Rather's Drug Store.

J. C. Walker's dry goods store was where Miss Sarah Myers'⁷ ready-to-wear shop is on the south side. He was father of the late Edwin Walker and lived in the two-story brick home of the Oliver Robinsons.⁸

Sam Frank & Co., dry goods and groceries, owned and occupied the present Levy store. Before the war they occupied the Rather Drug Store building.

I. C. Levy & Co.—I. C. Levy and James Nuttall—dry goods and groceries, were on the southeast corner of the square. It was about then that the late Ben F. Lawrence, as a boy, went to work for them.

There is a nice bunch of professional cards:

Kimbrough & Abernathy—B. T. Kimbrough and W. M. Abernathy—are attorneys at Ashland.

Watson & Watson—J. W. C. Watson of Holly Springs and J. H. Watson of Sardis—father and son—is a law firm at Sardis.

Watson, Manning & Watson, "office on Oxford St., over the Post Office," now W. W. Anderson's apartment.⁹ J. W. C. Watson and Ed M.

station is a physical location—perhaps nothing more than a milepost and a sign with a name on it," whereas a depot "is the building designed to accommodate passengers, freight, or both." *Train Depots and Roundhouses* (St. Paul, Minn.: MBI Publishers, 2002): 30.

⁷ Few women engaged in retail business enterprises during this period. Those who did were usually unmarried or widowed.

⁸ The Robinsons lived in the house on East Falconer Avenue which to-day is known as "Herndon."

⁹ This is the apartment on the second floor of the historic building at 152 S. Memphis Street, which now houses the dental offices of Dr. Beth Stinnett, formerly the office of Dr. J. A. Hale.

Watson another son and Van H. Manning, who later became congressman.¹

Walter & Scruggs — office west side of square, over Holly Springs Bank—H. W. Walter and J. M. Scruggs. Col. Walter built Mrs. M. A. Greene's present residence and has a son and three daughters living—Harvey, his namesake and my boyhood neighbor and friend, who lives on the Pacific coast, Mrs. Dr. Annie Fearn of Shanghai-Vienna, Miss Lillian Walter and Mrs. [Pearl Walter] Dye of New York. James M. Scruggs' home stood on the site of C. C. Stephenson's residence. He has a son and namesake, Med Scruggs, who lives in Memphis, and a daughter, Mrs. Fannie Robinson of New York.

Stith & Phillips, office upstairs in Cawthorn building (now Sam Coopwood's store).² Mr. Phillips was grandfather of his namesake George Phillips of Hudsonville, and father-in-law of his partner Judge Stith, who has two sons and a daughter living in Memphis, Stanford and Percy Stith, and Miss Nona Stith.

STRICKLAND & FANT'S OFFICE

Strickland & Fant, office upstairs in what is now the C. A. Jones building south of Tyson Drug Co.—Wm. M. Strickland, James T. and Arthur Fant. Maj. Strickland is remembered by this generation; the Fants were uncles of L. G. Fant, Sr. Arthur Fant's widow, Mrs. Lizzie Fant, is still living here.

Featherston, Harris & Watson, office on the south side over Athey's drug store (now Dancy's drug store)—W. S. Featherston, father of D. M. Featherston, Thomas W. Harris, grandfather of Harris Gholson; and R. L. Watson, who left no children.

E. O. Albritton, office on south side of square over Wm. Chism's. I do not recall much

¹ Vannoy H. Manning (1839-1892), born near Raleigh North Carolina, was brought by his parents to Mississippi at the age of two and was educated in De-Soto County and the University of Nashville. He practiced law in Holly Springs after the Civil War, and served as a U. S. Congressman from 1877 to 1883, after which he lived in Washington and practiced law there. *Biographical Dictionary of the American Congress*, 1774-1927, 1286; Hamilton, 114.

² The store was located on the north side of the square in the second building north of the Market Street corner.

about Mr. Albritton, though I have heard of him. Mr. Chism's store, I believe, was in Jim Arrington's.

G. Wiley Wells' office was the front room over Captain Sam Frank's store (now Levy's). Wells was a carpetbag lawyer and was also Federal revenue collector. Prior to the election of 1875, which was to oust Republicans, Wells told Democratic leaders that he knew all was over and he wanted to go back North, and if they would elect him to Congress he would throw the race for them. Wells' name led on both tickets, and on election day Lea, his deputy, with a pencil concealed under his ring, would ask to see the negroes' tickets. They knew and trusted him; with a sweeping gesture of approval he brought his hand down the ticket, marking off all but Wells' name, and hand it back.³ Wells bought Dr. A. B. Ross' old home on Salem Ave., later known as Col. Calhoon's home, remodeled it, putting in the first hot air furnace in a residence in Holly Springs.⁴

John H. Mayer, I cannot place. His office was over Lane & Cannon's store on the east side.

John C. Atkinson, office on Oxford St. (now So. Memphis) opposite Presbyterian Church. It still stands. His practice was in claims against the Federal government, chiefly.⁵

³ Such incidents indicate the precarious state of democracy in the post-war South. But as Hodding Carter has remarked, "In most of the South, Reconstruction brought the taste of gall... But apparently in Holly Springs most of the Republican overlords, both white and black, were not as avaricious or corrupt as their counterparts elsewhere, nor was the outrage of the white citizenry as violently or as implacably expressed, though this is not to say that they either liked the new order or intended for it to continue." Carter numbers Wells, of New York, who came to Marshall County after the war as a U. S. Attorney for the northern district of Mississippi as one of those outsiders who won acceptance with the white leaders of the community. *A Vanishing America*, 68-69.

⁴ The house, erected in 1857, stands at the northwest corner of Salem Avenue and Walthall Street, and is presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Baker. See *It Happened Here*, 37-38; *Mississippi Home-Places*, 91-93.

⁵ This is the building known now as the "Yellow Fever House," which now houses the Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Bureau.

So far all were lawyers' cards;¹ but Fort & Craft, real estate agents, have a card. Office on Oxford St., one door south of Post Office, now Dean Apt.² Mr. James Fort was father of Mrs. Chesley Daniel and Maj. Hugh Craft father of the Misses Craft.

Dr. B. F. McKie of Chulahoma has just located in Holly Springs and his office is at his residence. He soon snapped into the cream of the practice. His son, Earl McKie is still with us.

Lawrence & Johnson—B. G. Lauwrence and Lawrence Johnson, office on Hernando St., rear of R. M. Simpson's old stand. Simpson's was on the present post office corner, facing Memphis Street. A group of frame offices was in the rear, facing Hernando Street. (West College). Mr. Lawrence was a candidate for mayor. Mr. Johnson was a better scientist than lawyer and the government soon took him to Washington, and he spent the rest of life there.

¹ At the height of the city's development Holly Springs had many lawyers—drawn at first by disputes over land titles when the area was first opened to settlement, then attracted by the advantages of a settled community—schools, cultural opportunities, and the like.

² This building, located at 154 South Memphis Street, was the old Presbyterian Church, and until recently the Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce before it moved to the northeast corner of the square.

12.

NEWSPAPER OF FIFTY YEARS AGO REVEALS HOLLY SPRINGS ACTIVITIES.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (June 23, 1932).¹ A change of ownership had come to *The Holly Springs Reporter* is to be seen from the copy of October 31, 1872, which Bunk Jones loaned me. Calhoon & Holland are now at the masthead.

Col. Calhoon had come here a young widower, from Canton, Miss., about 1869 or '70, and first published *The Conservative*. He had associated with him a little later Harry Bosworth, also of Canton, but I don't remember what paper they published, nor when Col. Calhoon changed to *The Reporter*. Mrs. Bosworth was teacher at Chalmers Institute one session that I was there. The Bosworths lived at Miss Em Polk's residence (now the J. C. Tuckers' home).²

I do not know when W. J. L. Holland came to *The Reporter*, but it was the only paper here with which he was connected. He was reared on the Holland plantation near Sylvestria, and died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878.

The paper has changed the style of the heading, using the Old English, a style of heading to which I was partial and I have the old *Reporter* head still in my possession.

WEDDING OF W. C. JONES

Wm. C. Jones and Miss Conley Fennell were married at the home of the bride's father, John D. Fennell, the Rev. Joe Brooks, Sr., officiating. Mr. Jones still owns the old Fennell residence,³ a two-story frame next to Isom Jones' home.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 15, 1932).

² This is the house now known as "Polk Place," at 180 South Craft Street.

³ This is the house known as "Hilltop," built in 1856 by George W. Reynolds and sold to John D. Fennell, a wealthy planter. It still stands on East Park Avenue at the top of the bluff rising out of Spring Hollow. Like many through the years, the Fennells moved to town so their daughters could go to school. The home has recently been purchased by Dr. J. A. Hale.

Samuel J. Price, of Clarendon, Ark., and Miss C. Bettie Bowers of this county were married Oct. 23 at the home of Dickinson Rogers Esq., the Rev. J. N. Craig, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, officiating.⁴

Wm. Mills, born in South Carolina March 20, 1800, died in Galveston, Texas, Oct. 1, 1872. Moved to Holly Springs in 1851 and became president of the North Mississippi Bank (located where Stafford's Café is). He moved to Galveston in 1871 to be near his son and brothers. His residence stood on the site of M. I. College. His niece, Mrs. Rowena Knox Benton, widow of Col. Sam Benton, and children lived with him. He was uncle of Mrs. Robt. McDowell.

Chancery court adjourned Saturday night after three weeks' session. The Hibler guardianship case took up Friday and Saturday, and the guardianship of Miss Hibler was given to Mrs. Garrett.

Circuit court will open Monday with Judge Orlando Davis⁵ on the bench and Jas. T. Fant, district attorney.

FAITHFUL TRACK WALKER KILLED

Mike Mullany, track walker between Holly Springs and Hudsonville for the Mississippi Central Road was killed by the train near Hudsonville Oct. 25. He had served faithfully for sixteen years. His cousin was killed by the train a few years ago near the same spot.

The Judge Thomas A. Falconers were kind-hearted souls and when Charley Schneider's wife

⁴ Most weddings in this era were performed at home. See Joe Gray Taylor, *Eating, Drinking and Visiting in the South: An Informal History* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982).

⁵ Judge Orlando Davis (1813-1898) was married to the former Martha McGhee (1820-1895). They lived in the house now called "Hamilton Place," and she was a great worker in the Presbyterian Church.

died they took her infant to their home. The baby died Oct. 25.

Katie Leslie, infant daughter of Jno. L. McGowan, near Waterford, died Oct. 25.

Died, at the farm of Wm. Wall,¹ (now Mrs. Sue Burns' farm) Mrs. Jane Davis Lowry, aged 19, wife of Lu E. Lowry; also her infant daughter.²

A. O. Cannon Esq.,³ of Red Banks neighborhood,⁴ raised 1,500 bushels of corn on thirty acres.

The Gilbert Sisters will begin a four-nights' engagement Nov. 4 at Masonic Hall.

A compromise ticket for aldermen, two Republicans and three Conservatives,⁵ has been named for the city election—Dr. J. F. Butler, 1st Ward; Joshua Phillips, 2nd; Logan Gorman, 3rd; Dr. S. C. Gholson, 4th; Wm. A. Roberts 5th. Gorman was a negro, and Phillips, too, I believe.

¹ William Wall, a pioneer settler, built a home, named "Sunnyside," in 1846, and stood out in the county between Hudsonville and Sylvestria. After a long abandonment, it burned about 1970. Hamilton, 134; see photos in *Southern Tapestry*, 34-35.

² Nineteenth century infant mortality rates were frightfully high in comparison with the present century, as an inspection of grave markers in any old cemetery will reveal. The life expectancy of American women did not surpass that of men until the 20th century.

³ Alfred O. Canon (d. 1879), a planter from Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, was a prominent citizen in the neighborhood. For many years the Old Brick or Philadelphia (now Red Banks) Presbyterian Church stood on the Canon plantation, about three miles northwest of the present village. See information and photos in *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 134, 242; *Southern Tapestry*, 43, 84, 169.

⁴ An old community, located on the present-day U. S. Highway 78, seven miles northwest of Holly Springs. See photos, *Southern Tapestry*, 90.

⁵ At the beginning of the Reconstruction period, whites were uncertain whether to vote as Democrats and be shut out of the political spoils, or to take an active part in politics as "Conservative" Republicans. Gen. A. M. West wrote to Dr. T. J. Malone in Holly Springs urging that voters hold aloof and see what might develop, voting for individual candidates who might achieve quick deliverance from military occupation. Hamilton, 44.

LYNCHING BY NEGRO MOB

By virtue of an alias Fi Fa issued by Geo. B. Myers,⁶ circuit clerk (father of G. C. Myers, now of Jackson, Miss.) a sheriff's sale is advertised by Geo. M. Buchanan, sheriff, on judgment of \$1,139 for H. M. Logan for use of Jno. C. Walker, vs. H. A. Cooper, mayor, and W. F. Mason, Solomon Baer, Mack Hill, Logan Gorman and Thomas G. Douglas, aldermen. Mack Hill and Logan Gorman were negroes. Hill, then serving as guard at the old jail, was murdered one morning in 1874 or '75 in a jail delivery of thirty prisoners, by two desperate negro murderers, one Ravenwood, I believe, under sentence of death. A negro mob took the two murderers out a few

⁶ George B. Myers was born in North Carolina in 1830 and came to Marshall County in 1848. He was wounded in the Confederate army, causing the loss of an arm. He was elected circuit clerk in 1867, and, except for two years, when he was removed by the military governor, held this office until his death in 1879. Ruth Watkins recounts another incident involving the colorful Mr. Myers. "On one occasion, the Republicans had arranged a very extensive program. About ten speakers had been provided to address the Negroes, and [Nelson G.] Gill [a Republican from Illinois who perfected a political organization within the local African-American population] was the last speaker on the list. The speaking took place in the center of the square at Holly Springs, where a stand had been erected for the occasion [the courthouse having been destroyed in 1864]. Col. Geo. B. Myers accompanied by Henry Dancy and a few others went over to hear Gill's speech. None were armed. Gill made a false statement, and Col. Myers, without any thought of consequences, jumped on the platform and declared it to be a lie, and struck Gill. Mr. Dancy and others ran to assist Col. Myers...and a little battle with sticks and brickbats ensued. Mr. Dancy threw a brickbat at one of the men on the platform and it broke his leg. Things were quieted down by the presence of armed white men from the stores around the square. The injured man was taken to Dr. Compton's drug store to have his leg set. Mr. Dancy was immediately informed that this man had reported him, and he left town for a short time. Several men were wounded, but no one was seriously injured." By Watkins' reckoning, the event took place in the summer of 1869. "Reconstruction in Marshall County," 186-87; Hamilton, 114-15. Myers was in Atlanta when he learned of the yellow fever epidemic in Holly Springs. He had to walk into town from the south, as trains were refusing to stop at the depot, and as he struggled with his luggage up past the cemetery, he saw the workers burying Gus Smith. Upon his arrival, W. J. L. Holland put him in charge of the express and telegraph offices. Hamilton, 50.

nights later and killed them on the land flat this side of Rocky Mountain.¹

The Great Eastern Menagerie, Museum, Circus and Caravan will exhibit in Holly Springs Saturday, Nov. 16. It was a large show for that day, and set-up on the High School grounds—no buildings there then. It traveled overland, using mules for draft animals.

Bishop William Mercer Green (Episcopal), grandfather and namesake of the present bishop coadjutor,² announces visits to Early Grove, Lamar (St. Andrews about five miles southeast) and Holly Springs. Douglas Baird's grandfather Baird was the pillar of the Early Grove Church,³

¹ This is one of the few lynchings recorded in Marshall County history. It is not known whether the mob acted at the behest of whites. See *A Festival of Violence: An Analysis of the Lynching of African Americans in the American South* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1995). Holly Springs native Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1931), an African-American editor, lecturer, and reformer (whose father James Wells was a slave-carpenter apprenticed to master-builder Spires Boling), wrote two books: *Southern Horrors* (1892) and *A Red Record* (1895), that helped focus national attention on this disgrace. The new Holly Springs post office on Highway 178-West is named in her memory. See Appendix, p. 394; also *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 495; *Southern Tapestry*, 70, 169; Clarissa Myrick-Harris, "Against All Odds," *Smithsonian Magazine* 33 (July 2002): 70-77.

² Mississippi is perhaps the only diocese in the Episcopal Church to have had two fathers and grandsons among its bishops—indeed, Mississippi has had a father, son, and grandson from the same family among its Episcopal bishops. They are William Mercer Green Sr., the state's first diocesan (who served 1850-1887) and his grandson William Mercer Green II (coadjutor, 1919-1938 and diocesan, 1938-1942), and Duncan Montgomery Gray Sr. (who served 1943-1966), Duncan Montgomery Gray Jr. (coadjutor, 1974; diocesan, 1974-1993; and Duncan Montgomery Gray III (bishop coadjutor, 2000). The Rev. William Mercer Green Jr., son of the second Bishop Green, was rector of Christ Church, Holly Springs in 1941-1942.

³ St. John's Episcopal Church, in the Early Grove neighborhood, was established about 1850. The original house of worship was a log building, with a proper house of worship completed six years later. As with most early neighborhoods in the county, most of the citizens worshiped in the community church, forming a kind of parish. After the Civil War, efforts were made sporadically to revive the church and a school which stood nearby. Early in the 20th century the buildings were destroyed in a fire accidentally begun by workers cleaning the adjoining cemetery. *Southern Tapestry*, 42.

and my grandfather, Dabney Minor of St. Andrews.

Jas. Schwoob, "who kept a splendid restaurant in Memphis," will open in the store next to Charley Schneider's confectionery. Schneider occupied what is now Gatewood & Gray's store, on College.

Ross & Withers offer flour at Memphis rates.⁴ They occupied what is now Brown Bros.' Hardware store on the west side. Ulysses Ross was father of the late W. T. Ross, and I believe Withers was A. Q. Withers father of the late E. Q. and Buck Withers.

Robinson & McLean had a grocery store where the M. & F. Bank is now.⁵ It was known then as the *Reporter* building—*The Reporter* occupied the present telephone exchange rooms upstairs.⁶ Goby Robinson was brother of the late Mrs. Jas. H. Watson of Memphis—Annah Robinson Watson. Mr. McLean was from the North, had a beautiful voice, was a member of Christ Church and sang in the choir. He died in Memphis in the yellow fever of 1878. Mr. Robinson married the niece of the late the Rev. Dr. J. T. Pickett, and died while living in Florida.

Boling & Reed, wholesale and retail liquor dealers (not a saloon) occupied what is now Crawford's Drug Store in the Masonic building.⁷ Boling lived in Henry Gatewood's residence⁸ and owned a distillery in what was later Johnson's Mill, in the spring hollow.⁹ Reed, I think, was Clem Reed, who lived next door south of Mrs. W. T. Ross' home. All drug stores and

⁴ Prices in Holly Springs were generally higher, due to increased costs of transportation.

⁵ The bank was at the southeast corner of College Avenue and Market Street, in the building now occupied by the Marshall County Tax Assessor's Office.

⁶ The telephone exchange was located here until 1965—the year Holly Springs received dial phones—one of the last communities in the state to be so equipped.

⁷ The Masonic Building stood on the east side of the square where the present Mark Miller Department Store and Buford's Furniture Company are located.

⁸ This is the house which stands at the junction of Randolph Street with Salem Avenue, now the Ida B. Wells Family Art Gallery. See Appendix, pp. 395-97; Long the home of Sam H. Pryor, it was called "The Priory," where as a gesture of his hospitality the front door was never locked and here were entertained many of Mississippi's most important citizens.

⁹ See photo in *Southern Tapestry*, 87.

many grocery stores sold whiskey then by the gallon or bottle.¹

TRAIN KILLS CHAS. THOMAS

Stratton & Wellford are cotton factors on Court St., Memphis. John L. Wellford was an elder in the First Presbyterian Church, Memphis,² and married Betsy Thomas, daughter of Charles Thomas, antebellum lawyer, statesman, planter and polished gentleman, who lived between Lamar and Hudsonville. Thomas' Cut was a flag station near his house on the old Mississippi Central Railroad, and he was accidentally killed there by the train.³ His body and those of his wife (a sister of the late Jane H. Minor and Dabney H. Hull) and two daughters, rest in Hill Crest Cemetery. Mr. Wellford's daughter, Kate, married the late William Withers, son of E. Q. Withers and grandson of the late Wm. Hull.

Maj. Geo. M. Govan and L. B. Mosby compose the insurance firm of Govan & Mosby. Maj. Govan later moved to McComb City⁴ and was Secretary of State, and colonel of the First Mississippi Infantry in the Spanish-American War.

¹ L. Graham Miller recalls how, during prohibition, a grocer located where the present True-Value Hardware Store now is on South Center Street, kept whiskey under a moveable floor board in his store. Mr. Miller remarked that the whiskey must have not have kept very well, for the purchasers in those days seemed to feel constrained to drink the entire bottle as soon as they possibly could. L. Graham Miller to R. Milton Winter, September 5, 2002.

² The Wellfords are still a leading family in the Memphis church.

³ Railroad accidents were big news in those days, and the Mississippi Central had its share of mishaps, many in the vicinity of Hudsonville. In the spring of 1859, Emma Finley spoke to her diary of fears that a picnic to Davis' Mills might be postponed due to a recent railroad accident: "From the heavy rains- & fear, that, since the accident when Mr. Jones & Lizzie with others were hurt & burned, the trestling might give way, we expected a disappointment in the picnic. But hearing Friday night they would go, Julia, Ginnie & I with George set off bright & early for the depot, and a short while before ten in a crowd of fifty or sixty left on the excursion train for Davis' Mills." Mildred Strickland wrote to her husband, Major W. M. Strickland in February 1862: "I don't want you to travel on the cars now. There are so many accidents."

⁴ The town of McComb, Miss., was originally called McComb City.

You had to get up early to catch the north-bound express, which left at 2:37 a.m., or the southbound mail train at 3:20 a.m.⁵

PASTORS OF THE CHURCHES

The Rev. William Shepherd is pastor of the Methodist Church and Father A. de Morangis is at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. The Rev. James T. Pickett is again rector of Christ Church; he had served the parish at Columbus. Rev. E. D. Miller is pastor of the Baptist Church. The Rev. J. N. Craig at the Presbyterian.

Ben R. Long is proprietor and manager of the City Hotel, on Memphis Street, formerly the Schulyer House, now the Travelers' Inn.

Nelson G. Gill is postmaster, and the post office was located in the present Patterson shoe shop next to Con Bonds' meat market (there has been a meat market there as long as I can remember). Gill was the organizer of negroes in the county and I believe was elected sheriff. He won more of the respectable Southern whites than any of the Carpetbaggers here. My elders believed him honest, as he left here poor. He turned Democrat after he moved to California, and was elected while there.⁶

⁵ Speed was not an inducement to ride the Mississippi Central, unless compared with travel by horse. Passenger trains held to an absolute limit of 25 miles-per-hour, while freights crept along at 10-12 m.p.h. The Holly Springs trains were scheduled to connect with those of the Illinois Central from Chicago via a ferryboat at Cairo, Ill., and the New Orleans, Jackson & Great Northern, at Canton, Miss. See R. Milton Winter, "The Mississippi Central and the Illinois Central," *The Green Diamond: Magazine of the Illinois Central Railroad Historical Society* 65 (June 2003).

⁶ A colorful character and Republican organizer of the community's black citizens during the Reconstruction era, Nelson G. Gill, of Illinois, was the county's main carpetbag leader. A masterful speaker, he would address freed slaves for hours at a time. He was postmaster, and for a time had charge of the Freedmen's Bureau. He organized the Negroes into "Loyal Leagues" and other political clubs, and instructed them how to vote. During election campaigns, Gill led torchlight parades and cut a striking figure astride a horse wearing a red sash, while his black constituents marched in columns a mile long. Because the Mr. and Mrs. Gill appeared to treat blacks as social equals, they were despised by the white establishment and incurred the wrath of the Ku Klux Klan. After serving briefly in the state legislature, he was defeated for sheriff by Democrat Henry C. Myers. He later moved to Holmes County, Mississippi, and became a Demo-

The Gills lived at the old Perrine Fant Place on the Experiment Station Road,¹ and his wife taught in a Negro school.²

crat; then again to Los Angeles, where, as a Republican, he won a term as sheriff. "Reconstruction in Marshall County," 168-69; *A Vanishing America*, 69; *Southern Tapestry*, 69.

¹ Now called West Street, leading north from Salem Avenue.

² Mrs. Gill, a Missourian, was incorrectly thought to be a mulatto, a mistake probably due to the fact that she wore her hair short, in tight corkscrew curls. She taught in her husband's school and was an important force in shaping Reconstruction-era attitudes and opinions of many blacks. One summer she had a large number of photos made, and required each of her pupils to buy one at the cost of twenty-five cents. Gill divorced her while they were living in Holly Springs and married her sister. "Reconstruction in Marshall County," 168-70; *Southern Tapestry*, 69.

13.

WHAT WAS GOING ON HERE 58 YEARS AGO.

Copy of *The Holly Springs South*, of February 5, 1874, Published by Watson & Mickle, a Mirror of Life Here in Those Days.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (July 14, 1932).¹ There have been changes in ownership, name of the paper and style of type in the head in this last copy of the Holly Springs paper loaned me by Bunk Jones.

Independent South has been dropped and it is now *The Holly Springs South*, of date, Thursday, February 5, 1874. The editorial page carries, however, the sub-head *Independent South*. Both heading and sub-head are in Old English type.

Watson & Mickle are the owners now—Judge J. W. C. Watson, a leading member of the bar, able editor and fine type of man. The other was my father, Maj. Belton Mickle.

Sentiment in regard to theaters has changed greatly since those days, especially as to risqué performances, though such displays as they gave would be considered "dump" now.

Immediately on arriving advance agents would give the covert warning "don't bring your wives or sweethearts," with the intended result.

To such an advance agent Judge Watson, who was a conscientious man, replied, shoving the agent's folder aside, "I will write something about your show"—and he did, a double-leaded editorial, denouncing the show and calling on good citizens to place their seal of disapproval upon it by staying away.

WANTED TO PAY FOR IT

The morning of the show the owner called and asked for the bill. My father replied that as they had carried no ad there was no bill. "But

this notice was the best ad you could have given me," the agent rejoined, "and I am willing to pay handsomely for it; the house was sold out before we got there."²

And speaking of shows, the Wallace Sisters—Jennie, Minnie and Maude—a good road show that old timers will recall, will appear at the Masonic Hall Friday evening. Reserve seats

² Judge Watson, described by Hubert H. McAlexander as a member of a household "known for both rectitude and cultivation," was regarded as the strictest of the town's Presbyterian elders. *Prodigal Daughter*, 18. William Baskerville Hamilton described him as "an uncompromising Puritan," because of his propensity to bring wrongdoers before the church for ecclesiastical trials. Unlike the original Puritans, he was an advocate of strict prohibition—and indeed, argued before the state constitutional convention of 1865 for the complete abolition of liquor sales by law, and in 1881 arranged for Frances E. Willard, founder of the Women's Christian Temperance Union to speak before the state legislature. He would not travel on the Sabbath — preferring on grounds of conscience to leave Holly Springs in time to reach a distant county seat on Saturday when his court was to convene the following Monday. Reuben Davis, who knew him, recalled having won a hopeless case by the simple expedient of making Watson so angry that he ruined himself before the judge and jury. At the time of his death, September 24, 1890, one of his disciplinary cases was pending before the church session. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church for forty-five years. But as all men do, this hero had his weaknesses... His friend, F. A. Tyler was a big smoker. His cigar fumes were "strong enough to run an elevator." And the story goes that Watson, a total abstainer from tobacco, used to like to sit by the hour close to Tyler and be heartily smoked! *Mississippi: Sketches*, 2:941-42; *Memoirs of Mississippi*, 2:996-98; Reuben Davis, *Recollections of Mississippi and Mississippians*, rev. ed. (Jackson: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1972), 89-92; Hamilton, 120-22; *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 297; *Southern Tapestry*, 31-34, 98.

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 15, 1932).

at C. P. Smith & Co.'s bookstore—and that is a place they will recall also.

"The matrimonial market is dull this week, though there is considerable activity in futures."

The Marshall County Monument Asso. will probably accept the bid of the Marble Co. of this city for the Confederate monument [in Hill Crest Cemetery]. (The monument, except the shaft, was turned out by the company a year or so later. The shaft, made by W. B. Bradberry, was added twenty-five years ago. Judge James M. Greer of Memphis, making the address).

Mrs. Clementine Jones, consort of the late Malsherbes Jones, and daughter of Brantley Sugg, Esq., died January 13. She was mother of Bunk Jones.

The Holly Springs Dramatic Asso. have in rehearsal "Love's Sacrifice, or The Rival Merchants," which they will give before Lent.¹

The Rev. C. J. Nugent is pastor of the Methodist Church; Prof. J. J. Wheat of Oxford alternates on 2nd and 4th Sundays. Father Phillip Huber is pastor of St. Joseph's Church.

Among heretofore unmentioned local advertisers is Rather's Mill, operated by Dan and Sam Rather (half-brothers of the late L. A. Rather) about the site of the power house; "Market St. east of the Market House," the ad states. The market house was city owned, stalls leased to retailers, and calaboose in the back. The Rathers ground wheat also, the only flour mill I recall here.

PALM & ROBERTS DISSOLVES

Palm & Roberts lumber yard, at the depot, dissolves partnership, W. A. Roberts retiring. It was a sideline for Mr. Roberts, who was in another business. G. A. Palm was a naturalized German who settled here before the war and was a Confederate soldier. Years after the war he visited Germany and as he had not done his military service before coming to America the Germans

¹ Ecclesiastical custom emphatically dictated that stage plays, dancing, and other "worldly amusements" cease during the forty days of Lent. Churches such as the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist, which did not take notice of the liturgical "kalender," in those days, did not officially countenance such activities at any time.

grabbed him, and the State Dept. at Washington had much trouble getting him released.

He made a good citizen and was much liked here. He was a contractor and built the Craft house ("The Pines") and the Dr. Wynne house, the latter for his own home.²

He married twice, two sisters, the Misses Martha and Ada Woodson, of near Hudsonville, aunts of Mrs. Jessie Woodson Gibbons. He moved to Memphis in the eighties and bought a suburban farm that is either part of or adjoins Overton Park.³

J. A. Carrington's livery stable was on South Center Street. Bob Dancy now owns the building, which was constructed long before the Civil War. It was operated then by Jack Holland, a good liveryman and picturesque character of the old days. Jack Mosby of Memphis is his grandson.⁴

² Dr. T. C. Wynne, a dentist, lived in the house that still stands on the southeast corner of North Randolph Street and Roberts Avenue. The structure is similar to the Addison Craft house, still known as "The Pines" located at 251 South Craft Street. It was constructed with a beautiful spiral stair. Hubert McAlexander to Milton Winter, December 24, 2002.

³ A native of Prussia, Gustavius Adolphus Palm (1839-1917) was one of a number of German craftsmen who came to Holly Springs before the Civil War and did finish work on the city's mansions and churches. After living in Ohio and Iowa, he came to Holly Springs in 1859, where he married Miss Ada Woodson. After the war, he engaged in business as a contractor, building the Addison Craft home, (1871), Turner Lane's brick house at the old Experiment Station (c. 1872, long since demolished), and the one for himself which still stands at the corner of Randolph and Roberts in Holly Springs. The Germanic influence of Palm and several Bohemian artisans, including the Rittelmeyers, who worked in Holly Springs, may be seen in several local structures. Palm moved to Memphis in 1887. At one time he was a member of the Presbyterian Church at Hudsonville, where he was elected an elder. He is buried in Hill Crest Cemetery. *Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, 195, *Southern Tapestry*, 70.

⁴ The old livery stable on South Center Street stood until the 1960s. The library parking lot and former Coca-Cola warehouse now cover the site. In the 1950s, the building was occupied by a car repair shop. It had beautiful brick arches that represented an interesting kind of vernacular craftsmanship. The southern part of the lot was a field where neighborhood children played baseball. Hubert McAlexander to Milton Winter, September 6, 2002.

J. H. Bennett, machinist, gun and locksmith. Plenty of people remember Uncle Dick. His shop was on South Center, one of a group of one-story two-room buildings that had been used for doctors' and lawyers' offices before the war. He served as alderman and was in charge at his death of the compress, then locally owned.¹

J. H. Farrell & Co., are successors of Boling & Reed, wholesale and retail liquor dealers under Masonic Hall.

BUILDING OF CHRIST CHURCH

When the present Christ Church was to be built, in the late mid-fifties, Mr. Farrell inaugurated a movement among his fellow Roman Catholics and bought the first Christ Church building and moved it to its present location and it has been since St. Joseph's Church.

Baker's Saloon was in Robert Wilkins' ("colored") restaurant on Market Street. J. T. Baker, the proprietor, later sold out, moved to Myrtle and was for long a pillar of the church there.

P. McVey, manufacturer of fashionable boots and shoes, has removed to one door south of Ross & Withers (upstairs over Louis Slayden's). Ross & Withers store is now occupied by Brown Bros.

The law firm of Watson & Manning is dissolved, Judge J. W. C. Watson retiring and forming the firm of Watson & Watson, with his son, Jas. H. Watson; and Col. Van H. Manning taking as partner Edw. M. Watson, another son of Judge Watson, under the firm name Manning & Watson.

The firm of Slayden & Munroe, merchants at Hudsonville, dissolves partnership, John F. Munroe retiring, and P. P. Slayden continuing the business. P. P. Slayden was brother of Everett D. Slayden who founded Slayden,² and was

¹ The Federal Compress and Warehouse was Holly Springs' largest industry. The original organization was established about 1890 by John E. Anderson, I. C. Levy, and H. O. Rand. Operations began in a small shed on the present site. In 1900, Joe Newberger and R. L. Taylor of Memphis bought out the original owners, and in 1924 the Federal Compress purchased the operation. The compress closed in the mid-1990s. *One Hundred Years, 1836-1936*, 13.

² A community about fourteen miles northwest of Holly Springs on U. S. Highway 72, originally known

foster father of Louie Slayden. John F. Munroe was father of Bennie Munroe, one time world champion bicyclist.

Mrs. J. H. Alexander will teach a music class at her residence in Chulahoma. G. W. McClain of Jackson, Tenn., is her grandson.

COOPER'S RESTAURANT AND HOTEL

Cooper's Restaurant and Hotel is in the McConnico building. This was the present J. A. Miller building, southwest corner of the square, and was later the Nuttall Hotel.³ Old man Tidwell operated the last hotel there, moving to the present Traveller's Inn.

E. J. Wilkerson keeps a grocery store and has an ad. Wilkerson's Corner was long a grocery store. The remodeled building of the colored undertaker's shop stands on its site. Capt. Wilkerson was great grandfather of Grover Knott.⁴

C. & S. Baer operated a dry goods and grocery store where Shaw's Hat Shoppe is located on the south side. Miss Dena Baer of New York and Mrs. Isidore Blumenthal of Colorado Springs are daughters of Aaron Baer, and Mrs. Sam Blumenthal of New York, a daughter of Solomon Baer.

George N. Dickerson, Frank T. Leake, J. H. Neeley, W. H. Coxe, Dr. G. Hardin, Wm. Wilkins, Dr. W. C. Warren, Dr. H. L. Alexander, prominent citizens over the county, certify to the good qualities of the Howe Sewing Machine.

T. L. Bennett has operated a blacksmith shop at Blythe's old stand, two doors north of Christy's wagon shop—and opposite the City Hotel (now Travellers' Inn). Tom Bennett was father of Tom Jr., Jim and Henry, all dead. Gideon Blythe was father of the late Mrs. F. R. Stojowski, and Lowden Christy was grandfather of Mrs. Jack Netherland and Jim Christy.

as Slayden's crossing. It was named for Everett Daniel Slayden, who came to Mississippi about 1865. *Southern Tapestry*, 108; see photos, p. 125.

³ This is the building at the southwest corner of Memphis Street and Van Dorn Avenue, which is now the Graham Miller Department Store.

⁴ Mr. Knott lived in the old Albert Herr place and ran a store down the hill from the house.

14.

NO LACK OF HOLLY SPRINGS NEWS IN DECEMBER OF 58 YEARS AGO.

HOLLY SPRINGS (December 15, 1932). Some copies of *The Holly Springs Reporter* for December, 1874, furnish interesting reading.

Game was plentiful then, and John Crump, W. L. (Buck) Withers, R. E. Taylor, Charles Powell and George Finley returned from a hunt in the Mississippi bottom (the Delta) with twelve deer. Mr. Crump was uncle of Congressman Ed Crump, Mr. Taylor the father of John Taylor of Potts Camp, Mr. Powell father of Ben Powell, Mr. Finley father of Tom Finley.

Thanks to Master Lucas Barry¹ for a waiter from his birthday party. He was eldest son of W. T. Barry.

C. H. Gallager of Benton Co. and Miss Mollie E. McElroy of Marshall Co. were married Nov. 4 at the residence of the bride's mother, Rev P. M. Moormon officiating.

Henry W. Collier and Miss Sallie E. Beck, daughter of Orin Beck, all of Benton Co., were married Nov. 17, the Rev. P. M. Moormon officiating. Orin Beck was uncle of Gen. N. B. Forrest, the Confederate "wizard of the saddle."

Poor Mr. Moormon, a fine man, was cruelly and without cause shot to death, a few years later.

F. Millington Smith Esq., representing one of the largest dry good houses in Memphis, called Friday. (Frank Smith was uncle of Dabney H. Crump of Memphis.)

¹ Mary Virginia Grigsby Foley, daughter of Presbyterian minister S. L. Grigsby recalled that as late as 1900, "little children were called 'Master' and 'Miss' as soon as they were born, much like English royalty now." She remembered that "when I was six years old I was 'Miss Mary.' Now at ninety-two I am 'Mary' to old and young alike." The old forms of address are still heard in Holly Springs to-day. *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 6.

DEATH OF DR. WHITE

Dr. Warren C. White died Nov. 26 at Allegheny Springs, Va., where he had gone to visit relatives. A splendid eulogy followed the notice, which illustrates how swiftly time had healed the wounds of temper, for only a few years before the editor, Col. John Calhoon, and Dr. White were on the verge of a duel when friends intervened and adjusted it.² A dentist by profession, Dr. White was the most picturesque and versatile character Holly Springs ever knew in the picturesque post-bellum days.

Hannibal Jones (uncle and namesake of L. H. Dancy, Sr.) is recovering from a gunshot wound received while out hunting.

² Holly Spring had its own dueling ground west of the city, and some infamous engagements were fought there. The custom had been introduced to the American South by French and British officers at the time of the American Revolution, as a way of "defending honor." All but outlawed in the North after the death of Alexander Hamilton in his famous duel with Aaron Burr at Weehawken, New Jersey, July 11, 1804, the practice was still resorted with distressing frequency below the Mason-Dixon line. Such illustrious Southerners as Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, Thomas Hart Benton, Sam Houston, Jefferson Davis, Judah P. Benjamin, John Randolph, and Albert Sidney Johnson engaged in duels. The cause could be personal, social, professional or political. Duelists were supposed to follow elaborate rules, such as those described in John Lyde Wilson's *The Code of Honor* (1838), and opposition to the practice was one of the most respectable Southern social causes. As late as 1876, the Session of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church disciplined one of its members, Edward Minor Watson, son of Judge and Mrs. J. W. C. Watson, for his public endorsement of the "dueling code." Watson later expressed "his matured conviction that the dueling code is wholly contrary to the word of God and his regret for having given it his endorsement. The practice was prohibited by the Mississippi Constitution of 1868. See Bertram Wyatt-Brown, *Southern Honor: Ethics and Behavior in the Old South* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982).

These items are from *The Reporter* of Dec. 3.

The McComb House at the depot is undergoing a change that will make it the prettiest hotel in the state, says *The Reporter* of December 10. Col. Harry McComb is in charge. This hotel dated from antebellum days and the western two-story ell was incorporated into the present hotel and is still standing.¹

E. P. Govan and daughter of Marianna, Ark., formerly of Holly Springs, are visiting the city.

Ben R. Long, for many years a resident, leaves next week to make his home in Texas.

ECCLESIASTICAL CHANGES

The Rev. J. D. Cameron succeeds the Rev. Phillip Tuggle as presiding elder of the Holly Springs district, and will live at the Methodist parsonage. The Rev. J. W. Lowrance, a young man of fine ability, has been appointed pastor. The Rev. C. J. Nugent has been sent to Canton, Miss.

Alice Heathcock, the adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Young, died Dec. 7.

Born to the Rev. C. J. and Addie M. Nugent, Nov. 22, a son, at Alma, Ark.

J. T. O'Neill and Miss Sallie B. Hill, both of Marshall Co., were married Nov. 19 at the residence of the bride's father, Richard H. Hill, the Rev. C. J. Nugent officiating.

J. W. Anderson, of Memphis, and Mrs. Sallie R. Anderson of Marshall Co. were married on Dec. 2 at the home of Mr. McAuley, the Rev. J. T. Pickett, rector of Christ Church, officiating.

¹ Henry S. McComb, of Wilmington Delaware, was a northern financier interested in Mississippi railroads. Through his Southern Railroad Association (in which investors such as Cyrus McCormick were participants), Col. McComb gained control of the Mississippi Central Railroad in 1868, merging it into his New Orleans, St. Louis, and Chicago Railroad, which in turn was allied with the Illinois Central System. The town of McComb in the southern part of the state was named in his honor. "The Mississippi Central and the Illinois Central," Carlton J. Corliss: *Main Line of Mid-America: The Story of the Illinois Central* (New York: Creative Age Press, 1950); John F. Stover, *History of the Illinois Central Railroad* (New York: Macmillan, 1975).

John Woodson of Hudsonville, and Miss Clyde Moody of Fayette Co., Tenn., were married Dec. 9 at 10 a. m., at the residence of Mr. Thornton, near Fayette Depot, Tenn., the Rev. Mr. Joyner officiating.

G. A. Palm of Holly Springs and Miss Ada O. Woodson were married Dec. 9 at the home of the bride's father, R. O. Woodson, near Hudsonville, the Rev. Mr. Joyner officiating. (Mr. Woodson was the grandfather of Mrs. Jesse Woodson Gibbons of the post office).

FIRST BANK HOLD-UP

And here is some real news—historical too—in the issue of Dec. 17—the first bank hold-up, so far as I know, in Mississippi.

"Four mounted men went to the bank in Corinth last week, and beating the cashier over the head with a heavy knife forced him to give up the keys. They opened the vault and abstracted about \$15,000 in money and jewelry, mounted and fled. They are supposed to be making for the Sand Hills of Alabama."

Strange horsemen spent that night at Maj. Harper's Place, a few miles south of Holly Springs, and many believed they were the robbers, and believed, also, that they belonged to the Jesse James Gang.

Saxby's band from Memphis will furnish the music for the annual Christmas "Masque Ball," Dec. 29 at the Masonic Hall.

W. L. Clapp and Miss Lamira Parker, both of Memphis, were married Nov. 24 at the Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, the Rev. Dr. Boggs officiating. Lucas Clapp was reared in Holly Springs, the son of the late Judge J. W. Clapp and nephew of the late Col. F. A. Lucas. He was the first of the two mayors Holly Springs furnished to Memphis.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Barry, Dec. 13, a son (Fennell Barry).

TWO MASONIC LODGES

Holly Springs had two Masonic Lodges then, and George R. Freeman Lodge elected officers: Robert McGowan, W. M.; R. L. Watson, S. W.; W. A. Roberts, J. W.; J. P. Norfleet, Treas.; A.

Q. Withers, sec.; E. N. Kilpatrick, Tyler; Belton Mickle, S. D.; Hugh Winborn, J. D.

The Holly Springs Band will give a concert and minstrels Dec. 23.

Miss Mary F. Hunt, a well-known poetess, is visiting her relatives, Judge and Mrs. Thos. A. Falconer.

Master Wm. West, the Dec. 24 issue states, will be around in the morning with his "Carrier's Christmas Address." *The Reporter* and *South* were delivered by carriers then.

The ladies of Christ Church, according to the issue of Dec. 31, have raised funds and bought the organ long in use at Calvary Church, Memphis. It was a sweet toned instrument and was traded in for the present organ during the Rev. P. G. Sears' rectorship.¹

W. H. Graham and Miss Hattie Ivy were married Dec. 16, at the residence of the bride's father, Capt. W. T. Ivy, in Mt. Pleasant. Mr. and Mrs. Graham were parents of Mrs. Myrtle Hicks of M. S. College, and Mrs. Graham is still living—in Cleveland, Miss. Capt. Ivy was uncle of the late Jesse Ivy of Mt. Pleasant and the late Mrs. C. H. Curd.²

News came Sunday of the death of A. J. McConnico of New Orleans, secretary of the New Orleans, St. Louis and Chicago R.R. All locomotives and stations are draped in mourning. Mr. McConnico lived in Holly Springs before the Civil War and was one of the chief builders of the old Mississippi Central Road which had its headquarters here, and later was absorbed by the above road, now in the I. C. R. R. Lucius Dancy's suburban farm in West End was their home.³

Col. John Calhoon was owner of *The Reporter* then, and said he and W. J. L. Holland were editors. It was a nine column, four page paper—"blanket sheets," they called them.

¹ This was the instrument that was purchased to replace the organ that was destroyed by Federal troops when they desecrated the church in 1862. (See p. 275).

² See photo of the old Ivy Place in *Southern Tapestry*, 40.

³ The home was located on what is to-day called Peyton Road.

15.

HERE'S THE NEWS OF HOLLY SPRINGS SHORTLY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, 1875.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. (March 10, 1932).¹ My friend, E. W. Francisco, Jr., has given me a copy of *The Holly Springs Reporter* for Thursday, December 2, 1875, which gives an interesting cross section of life and events in the Holly Springs of that period.

His maternal grand-uncle, John R. McCarroll, was an attendant in a wedding and the paper had evidently been preserved as a memento.

The chief social event noted as a double wedding at Christ Church on the evening of November 25, when W. Henry Anderson² and Miss Jennie M. Mickle and Ed S. Willis and Miss Lucy H. Mickle (my oldest sister) were united in marriage, the Rev. J. T. Pickett officiating.

Attendants for the Anderson-Mickle wedding were George Mason and Miss Alice Sears, W. A. Anderson and Miss Rosa Clark, B. S. Hull and Miss Kate Mason, James R. Wallace and Miss Lizzie Murdough.

Attendants for the Willis-Mickle wedding were W. Irwin McGowan³ and Miss Walker

Hull, Edgar West and Miss Fannie Fort, John R. McCarroll and Miss Hattie Dancy, Alex Chism and Miss Fannie Dancy.

It may be interesting to state who the maids were after they became matrons—Miss Rosa Clark, Mrs. R. H. Tunstall; Miss Kate Mason, Mrs. W. E. Baskin; Miss Lizzie Murdough, Mrs. H. C. Walters.

A grand Masque Ball will be given Friday, Dec. 24, by the young men of the city.

Thomas B. Edmondson is now connected with the McComb House at the Depot. Sheriff-elect H. C. Myers has returned from a trip.

"Happy" Cal. Wagner's Minstrels appeared last Monday night at The Hall before a large audience.⁴

The paper urges the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to set out shade trees along the streets.

the parlor windows but not a piece had been carried off."

⁴ Black minstrels were an immediate outgrowth of emancipation. The entertainment raised money for their churches and schools, but as a scholar of African American studies remarked, it is something of a paradox that the South's popular desire for a cultural tradition to set it apart from the perceived imperfections of the industrial North and imperial Europe—should induce the region's whites to turn to its blacks for their music, dance, and humor. In pre-war days, parts in these shows were taken by Caucasians who blackened their faces to accentuate popular caricatures of slaves as happy-go-lucky "dancing darkies." After the Civil War, Negro entertainers joined the ranks of minstrelsy, and even though they conformed to stereotypes and served at the behest of white stage managers who siphoned off the profits, minstrel shows offered one of the first ways that blacks could escape traditional channels into which their labor was directed. These performances were popular in Holly Springs until after World War II. Bill Barlow, "Minstrelsy," *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, 1018-20

¹ This article was reprinted in *The South Reporter Historical Edition* (December 15, 1932).

² Anderson was a teacher in Chalmers Institute. See *Prodigal Daughter*, 20.

³ When Miss Anna Roberts and William Irwin McGowan were married in 1880, the wedding presents were displayed in the back parlor of her parents' home, "Grey Gables," where the McGowans and their descendants later made their home. By their daughter Josephine McGowan Cox's recollection: "That night an intruder entered the house to steal the gifts, but Mr. Roberts woke to see a light flashing around his trousers which hung by their galluses on a nail in the window frame of the room across the hall. It was the beam from the burglar's dark lantern. Mr. Roberts jumped from his bed and in doing so frightened the intruder, who made good his escape. When Mr. Roberts went to investigate he found the silver and other lovely gifts collected on the end of the veranda outside

Mrs. Mary Govan, Miss Bettie and Andrew Govan left yesterday for Marianna, Ark.

Mrs. (Judge) A. M. Clayton, of the Lamar neighborhood, spent several days in town.

A. B. (Bud) Upshaw Esq., of *The Columbia (Tenn.) Journal*, formerly of *The Holly Springs South*, has been visiting in the city.

H. A. McCrosky, of Memphis, representing the glass and queensware house of Chas. N. Erich, was in town yesterday. (Mr. McCrosky married Miss Clemmie, daughter of Judge and Mrs. J. W. Clapp of Memphis—Holly Springs. Their daughter, Mary, died about a year ago.)

J. J. (Jim) House and Baylis E. Gray of Jackson, Tenn., were in town Saturday. Both moved to Jackson from Holly Springs.

Holly Springs Market—good middling cotton 12 1-2 c, flour \$6 to \$8.50, corn 75c to \$1, butter 25 to 40c, eggs 25, sugar, brown 11c, crushed 13 1/2c, coal oil 35 to 45c.

Familiar names appear among local advertisers: Scruggs, Hull & Finley, the leading dry good store here then, composed of Maj. Lewis S. Scruggs, Brodie S. Hull, John S. Finley and Jas. M. Crump. Maj. Scruggs left the firm a year later and it became Crump, Hull & Finley. They occupied the present Mrs. Isom Jones millinery store.

A big item in business circles was the announcement of the dissolution a big grocery firm, Crump & Roberts, located where Hamilton Harris is now, W. A. Roberts retiring, and James M. Anderson, the bookkeeper, also, who became partners in the new big firm of Roberts, Anderson & Chew, dry goods and groceries, who opened where Wright & Robinson now are.

The grocery firm took on Robert A. McWilliams and the firm was Crump & Co., the senior partners being Brodie S. and William Crump, Jr., brothers of Jas. M. Crump. Robert Fort became bookkeeper and Dick Topp clerk. Brodie Crump was president of the Bank of Holly Springs at the time of his death in 1878.

R. E. Chew, father of Ralph Chew of Memphis, was the other partner in Roberts, Anderson & Chew, and their staff were Thornwell Dunlap, John E. and W. Henry Anderson, and Bill McWilliams.

Scruggs, Hull & Finley's staff were G. C. Myers, bookkeeper, Dan W. Miller, and Will Wooten. I also worked there, having resigned a few months before my job, as a printer's devil on *The Reporter*.

Cliff Myers' father, Col. George B. Myers, circuit clerk, died a year or so later, and Cliff succeeded him and held the office until he was elected supreme court clerk about twenty-five years ago.

Jack Johnson of Red Banks, succeeded him at the store and was to become the head of Roberts, Johnson & Rand of St. Louis, and later of the International Shoe Co.¹

J. W. Fant & Co., dry good and groceries was another big firm, composed of Col. J. W. Fant, and probably his sons, Selden and Glenn Fant, the former, father of Lester G. Fant, Sr. They occupied the present Lucas Furniture Co. store, and their assistants were Sam Bonner, brother of Sherwood Bonner, and Robert McLain, father of G. W. McClain of Jackson, Tenn.

I. C. Levy, then located on the site of the Pythian-Odd Fellow building, was the senior store of the town, having been founded before the war, and is the only one still in existence, and is conducted by his son, Henry Levy.²

Mr. Levy's staff was composed of W. W. Ash, Joe Lebolt, (Mr. Levy's nephew), Dan J. and Bart Oliver (father and uncle of Charley and Dan Oliver)³ and Ben Lawrence.

¹ In 1938, Johnson's widow, Minnie Wooten Johnson, also a native of Marshall County, purchased the old McGowan-Fant-Peel-Crawford Place and carried out extensive renovation and enlargements, naming it "Montrose." The mansion still stands at 335 East Salem Avenue. It was willed to the City of Holly Springs in 1962 and is used by the Holly Springs Garden Club as its Pilgrimage headquarters. See information and photo, *Southern Tapestry*, 161.

² Henry Levy built his home across the street from his father's home at 245 East College Avenue. It is presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Gresham.

³ Chesley Smith remembered Oliver's store on the east side of the square—a confectionary. "What a treat it was to go to Mr. Dan Oliver's for ice cream and a big chocolate soda. There was a big marble soda fountain and round tables with those wire backed chairs, now sometimes called Coca-Cola chairs, with small ones for the children." *Childhood in Holly Springs*, 87.

J. H. Athey, druggist, was located where L. H. Dancy's drug store is now¹—that has been a drug store since before the Civil War. The late W. B. Athey was his son.

Dr. P. A. Willis & Son is another drug store advertised. The "Son" was Ed S. Willis whose marriage notice is in the same issue. They occupied one side of the store where Sam Sigman's grocery² is, under the Masonic building.

The other side was occupied by Geo. W. Buffaloe, confectioner. Mr. Buffaloe later moved to Oxford, prospered, retired, and is still living there.

W. A. Jones & Co., were leading hardware dealers. Egbert R. Jones, younger brother, was the junior member. They occupied the present F. R. Stojowski store, and I believe Henry C. Fort worked there, but soon after left to become bookkeeper at the Bank of Holly Springs, and later its president.

Brown & McGowan's shoe store was in the present H. S. Dancy store. Fletcher Brown was father of W. B. Brown of Holly Springs, and W. I. McGowan, father of Mrs. Josephine Cox and Mrs. Frances Walker.

¹ The store was located at the southeast corner of Van Dorn Avenue and Memphis Street.

² A generation later, *The Holly Springs South* had this to say about the Sigman store. "Wednesday, February 1, 1911: NEW FIRM. Chas. A. and Sam Sigman have bought the stock and good will of P. T. Holland grocery store. They are wide awake and progressive young business men and may expect to handle the best in the grocery line to be found. They will take charge on the 1st of February and the time will be known by the name of Chas. A. Sigman and Bro. Mr. Holland upon retiring wishes to thank the public for its patronage in the past and wishes a continuance of same to the new firm in the future." A few years later, this article appeared in the same newspaper. "Wednesday, April 14, 1915: STILL GROWING. Sigman Brothers Grocers are continually springing a surprise on the public in the way of improvement and expansion. Their remarkable growth has been a matter of comment and their store presents a scene of bristle and energy at all times. To take care of the increasing business they have purchased a new delivery wagon, making the third now in commission. Two telephones are required to take care of the orders received from town and country. Besides the refrigerating plant and sanitary counters and well appointed office, they will have a bookkeeper shortly to take complete charge of that end of the business."

J. G. Leach with his tin and hardware store was laying the foundation of his fortune. He was one of the early presidents of the M. & F. Bank. Mrs. L. G. Fant, Mrs. Thomas Finley and Miss Margaret Leach are his daughters; and M. H. Leach his brother.

Two law cards appear—Manning & Watson composed of Van H. Manning, Sr., and Ed M. Watson, and Falconer Bros. Col. Manning was later congressman, and Ed Watson died while he was assistant attorney general during Cleveland's first administration.³

Howard and Kinloch Falconer, two fine men, composed the other firm; both died in the fever of 1878. Kinloch was Secretary of State and from his deathbed requested that Henry C. Myers be appointed his successor, which was done.⁴

"Uncle" Jim Moore, the neat and accomplished barber, who has so many friends and keeps such an elegant tonsorial establishment," has taken Wm. Dogan into partnership. There were several colored barbers here then, and Uncle Jim was the courtliest one of them all.

A lot of Memphis ads are printed, among them Menken Bros., strong rivals of B. Lowenstein in the retail dry good line; Hill, Fontaine & Co., Stewart, Gwynne & Co., Brooks, Neely & Co., M. Gavin & Co., and A. C. Treadwell & Co., big Front Street, wholesale grocers, whose descendants are yet prominent in the Bluff City. The Treadwells were Marshall County men. William R. Moore & Co., were wholesale dry goods; and C. L. Byrd & Co., were jewelers from antebellum days. It was at the southeast corner of Madison and Main, and I believe my mother's wedding ring was bought there.

Holly Springs people visited New Orleans more than now and did more business there. Old timers will recall Pritchard & Bickham, cotton

³ Although Edward Minor Watson's father, John W. C. Watson was a Senator for the Confederacy and considered emigration to South America after the war, the son was quickly reconciled to life in the United States. Educated at the University of Virginia, he achieved prominence in government service in Washington, D. C., where he died at a prematurely early age.

⁴ Holly Springs has furnished Mississippi with four Secretaries of State: Kinloch Falconer, Henry C. Myers, James Hill, and George M. Govan. *It Happened Here*, 19, 83-85.

factors; Richardson & May, cotton factors—old man Richardson, next to the Khedive of Egypt was the then largest cotton grower in the world, and the richest man in Mississippi. He raised 15,000 bales a year.

Chaffe, Hamilton & Powell had a local connection, in that Col. John Powell, who lived in Grenada, married Miss Winnie Lea of Holly Springs. Supt. Will Lea of the compress is her nephew.

Torian & Dancy, cotton factors, were also connected locally. Col. Clifton Dancy, brother of H. S. Dancy, was from Holly Springs and later moved to Jackson, Tenn., where his son, Dr. Frank Dancy, eye, ear and throat specialist, still resides.

I am about to overlook four local concerns. Wallace & McGowan, saddlery and leather. Mr. Wallace was father of Mrs. Van H. Manning. His partner, I believe, was Robert McGowan, an older brother of Irwin.

Robert Hastings, a Scotchman, uncle of John Hastings, built and occupied the store at the depot, now owned by Sam West.

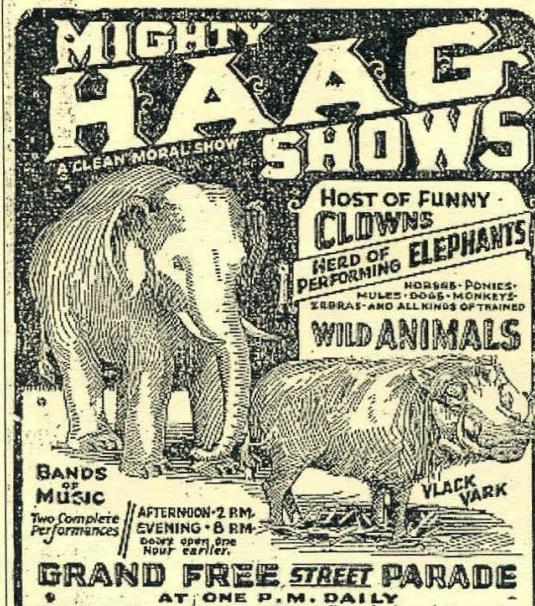
W. E. Miller, father of Ed and Charley Miller, former residents here, carriage and wagon factory, built a hearse for Norfleet & Sailor that was used by the Lucas Furniture Co. until they substituted motor for horsepower a few years ago. Henderson & Jackson (next door to City Lumber Co.'s office) were confectioners.

And J. T. Eason & Co., of Wall Hill were nervy enough to advertise their business of cotton buyers and general plantation supplies. Wall Hill was a good business point, and Arch Christy, formerly of Holly Springs, Jimmie's uncle got a good start there before moving to Coldwater.



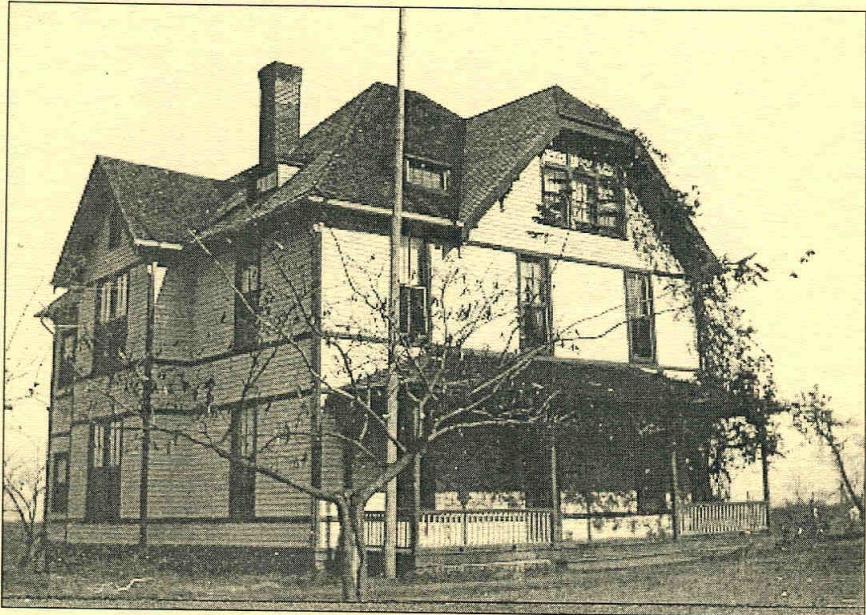
Gaily painted wagons on the square proclaim that a traveling show will soon be exhibiting in Holly Springs.
Lem Johnson photo. Chesley Smith collection.

Holly Springs-One day only
WED., OCT. 7

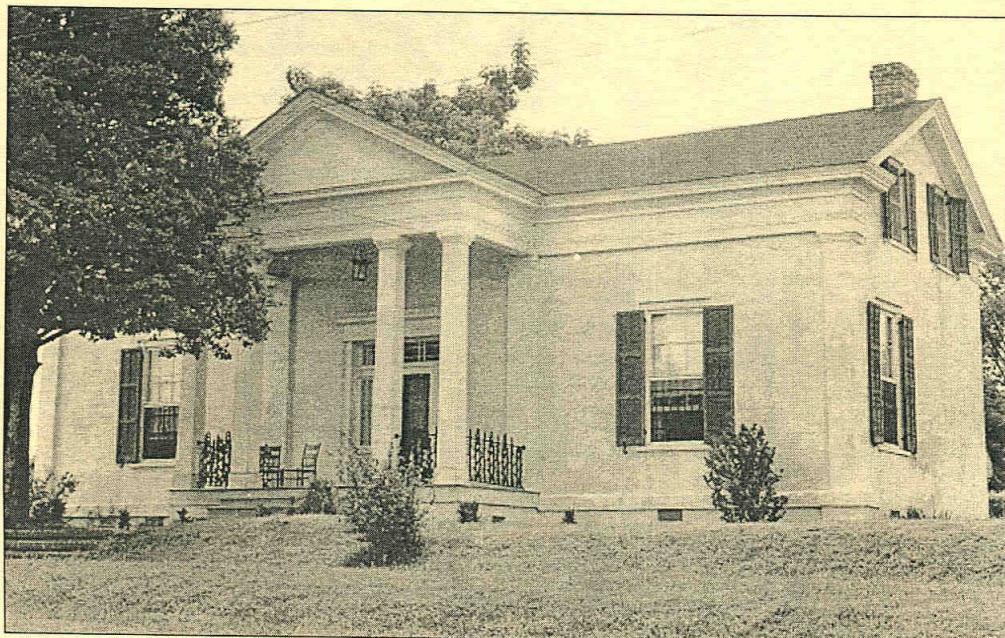


ADMISSION: Children 25c. - - Adults 50c.

Old newspaper advertisement for the circus. Courtesy of The South Reporter.



Howard-Myers Place which stood at the corner of College and Randolph streets on the site later occupied by Franklin Female College and presently by the Baptist Activities Building.
Lem Johnson photo. Chesley Smith collection.



The Alderson-Malone House, that stood at the southwest corner of College and Alderson streets.
Chesley Smith collection.



The E. H. Mitchell home (later the Horton Place) on West Chulahoma Avenue.
Lem Johnson photograph. Chesley Smith Collection.



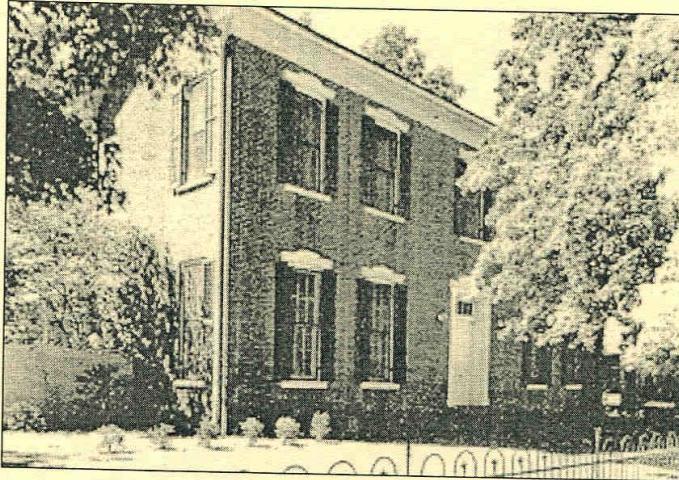
B. D. Matthews of Mt. Pleasant wearing his Masonic apron and sash.
Photo courtesy of Jack Durham.



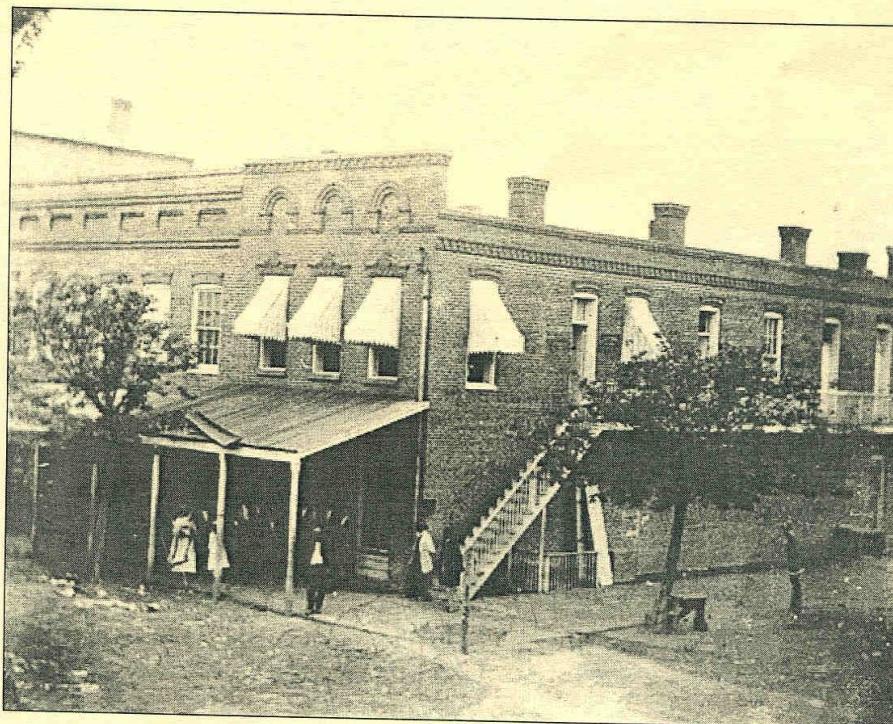
The E. H. Mitchell home (later the Horton Place) on West Chulahoma Avenue.
Lem Johnson photograph. Chesley Smith Collection.



B. D. Matthews of Mt. Pleasant wearing his Masonic apron and sash.
Photo courtesy of Jack Durham.



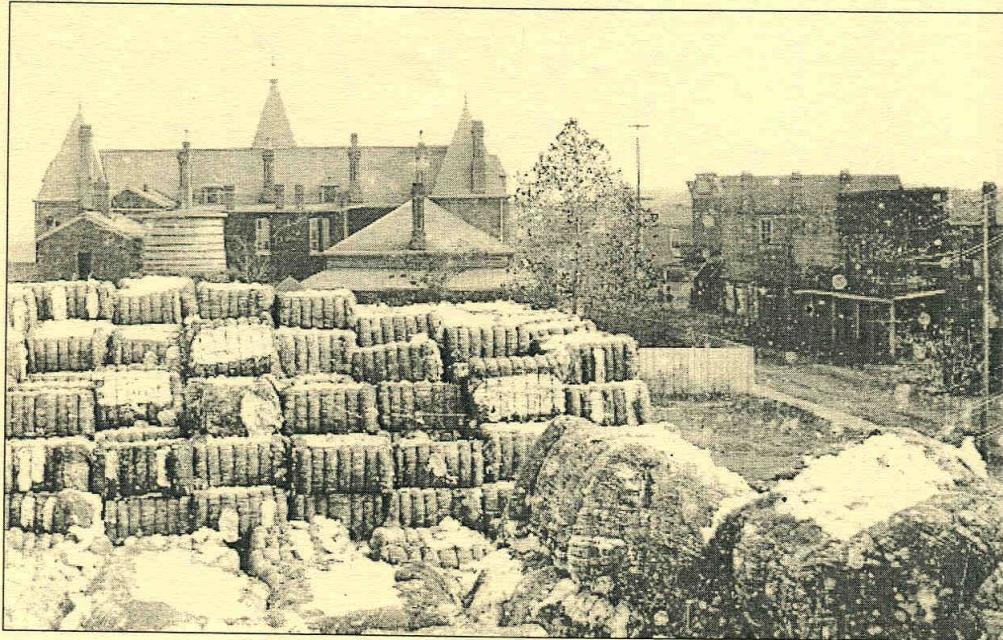
Mr. Mickle knew many of the residents of the two-story brick home on the south side of Falconer Avenue, between Maury and Walthall, known in past times as Lewis Thomson-John C. Walker Place and to-day as "Herndon." The Mossons and the Oliver Robinsons later lived there.
Photo from the Holly Springs Garden Club.



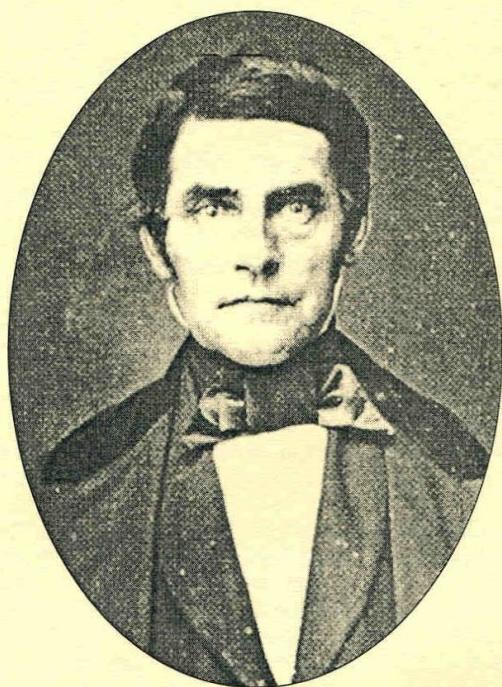
G. Wiley Wells, a lawyer who Mr. Mickle says "came to Holly Springs during the carpetbag regime." His office was the front room over Captain Sam Frank's store (later Levy's, now Linwood's). Wells was a lawyer and Federal revenue collector. A group of black citizens, dressed for a grand occasion, is gathered under the porch of the Sam Frank store. Photo from the Marshall County Historical Museum.



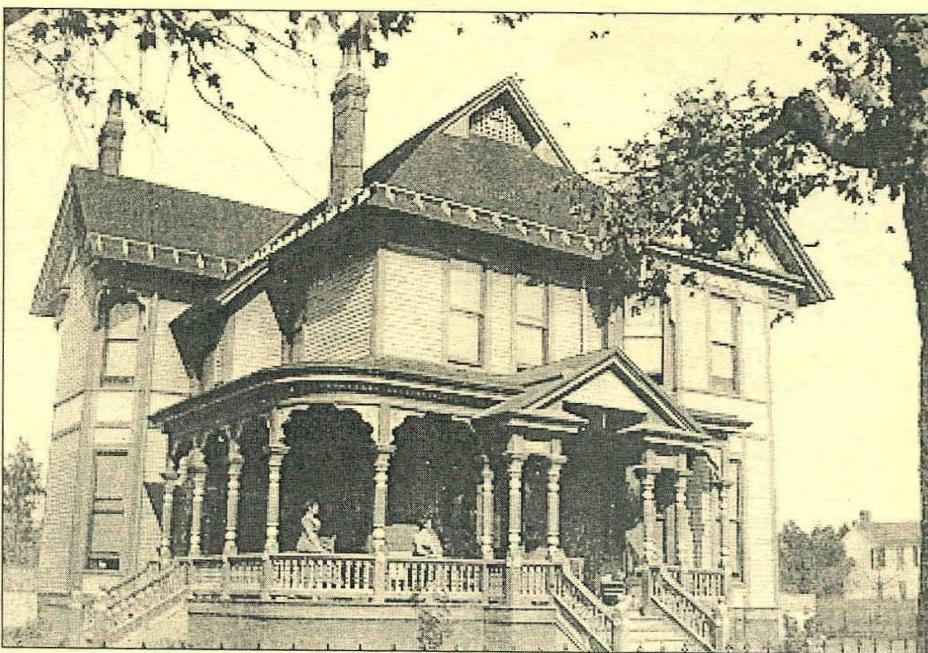
Sam Frank Place, later owned by G. Wiley Wells. Mr. Mickle wrote that
"Wells bought Dr. A. B. Ross' old home on Salem Ave., later known as Col. Calhoon's home,
remodeled it, putting in the first hot air furnace in a residence in Holly Springs."
Chesley Smith collection.



This view of the Holly Springs depot shows the cluster of stores that once stood along East Van Dorn Avenue.
The picture is made from the compress, looking east. Lem Johnson photo.
Chesley Smith collection.



J. W. C. Watson, a prominent Holly Springs judge and attorney.



Levy Place at the northeast corner of College and Maury. The Levy family were among the most successful members of a thriving Jewish community that once called Holly Springs home. Lem Johnson photo. Chesley Smith collection.

Appendix.

“SPIRES BOLING OF HOLLY SPRINGS: CARPENTER, MASTER BUILDER, ARCHITECT.”

by Hubert H. McAlexander

Among the many contributions of John M. Mickle, one of the most valuable in my view is his article “Old Boling House in Historic Hook-up,” published in *The South Reporter Historical Issue* of Dec. 15, 1932. Here he establishes Spires Boling’s importance as a builder and attributes two buildings to him: the residence constructed in 1858 for Judge Jeremiah Watkins Clapp on Salem Avenue, a notable antebellum architectural achievement, and the three-story Masonic Hall erected in 1870 on the east side of the square, a major building project during the period of Reconstruction. The Mickle article laid the groundwork for any attempt to document the career of this figure so central to Holly Springs architectural history.

Spires Boling (1812-1880), the son of Mitchell and Nancy Boling who are buried in a cemetery a few miles northwest of town, was apparently born in North Carolina, though census information on the Boling family is confused, inconsistent, and contradictory. He married his wife Nancy (born in Virginia) apparently in Ohio about 1833. In 1840, he was a resident of Jefferson County, Arkansas. He evidently joined his father and brother in Marshall County about 1845. Boling’s sequential designations in the county censuses of 1850, 1860, and 1870—carpenter, master builder, architect—reflect the career pattern of a number of regionally important builders in nineteenth century America. These men were frequently self-taught artisans who worked from pattern books and in their eclecticism often produced interesting variations on standard architectural styles and types.

Boling must have been a person of some substance by 6 January 1858, when he purchased from W. S. Randolph and wife four lots on the west side of Randolph Street south of the intersection with Salem Avenue, “being the premises on which Randolph formerly resided” (Marshall County Deed Book Y:45). Considered the founder of Holly Springs, Whitmel Sephas Randolph owned half-interest in the partnership that originally owned the site of the town. Randolph’s house on the street bearing his name burned in the mid-1850’s, and he moved to Panola County. Boling, however did not erect a residence on Randolph until after 16 Feb. 1860, when he bought from Randolph the large adjoining lot (Lot 44). He then built his house centered on the boundary line of Section Six and the township line. That line dissected his central hall. This second purchase from Randolph included the lot, “together with the right and privilege of using the water from springs on Lot No. 389 on Section 6, or so much thereof as will be sufficient for his, the said Boling’s purposes, the water to be conveyed from the Spring in pipes laid under the ground, the pipes extending up to the spring house” (DB Y:44).

The springs in question are associated with the earliest history of the town. At the time that Holly Springs was selected the county seat, the county governing body, the Board of Police, agreed to make the choice only on condition that the partnership holding the site convey title to the Board of fifty acres that the Board was to select and “also convey as Commons the ground now enclosed around the Holly Springs and the Springs known as Randolph’s Springs” (*Board of Police Minutes*, 1:8). The Holly Springs were in the southern edge of the ravine between the old Power House and the present water tank; Randolph’s Springs were located in the northeast section of Spring Hollow, behind the Randolph residence. Randolph’s Springs are apparently those referred to in this second conveyance from Randolph to Boling.

John Mickle recalled that “Boling’s three story distillery, later known as Johnson’s Mill, was located in the north part of Spring Hollow, which gave Holly Springs its name,” and he comments, “I feel sure it was built before the war, and Mr. Boling operated it for some years after the war.” This second conveyance from Randolph to Boling obviously enabled Boling to build the distillery. It is interesting to note that the

species of mint still growing deep in the hollow supposedly dates from the earliest days of the town, having been planted for use in the juleps served by the taverns perched on the south and east sides of the hollow.

Boling is listed in the 1860 census of Holly Springs as a "master builder," with holdings of \$17,000 in real estate and \$3,000 in personal property—this latter sum most probably reflecting his ownership of three or four slaves. One of these was Lizzie Bell, who worked as a cook for the family. She married James Wells, a man from Tippah County apprenticed by his master to Boling. This couple were the parents of Ida B. Wells, the noted journalist and crusader, for whom the new Holly Springs Post Office was named in the 1980s. The valuation of Boling's real estate in 1860 apparently included his own residence on Randolph, the story-and-a-half Greek Revival cottage with front portico surmounted by a pediment centered with a fanlight and supported by four octagonal columns, the structure now housing the Ida B. Wells Barnett Museum.

Boling's prosperity is reflected by his being an incorporator of the Memphis, Holly Springs, and Mobile Railroad in 1859, along with several prominent Memphians and such leading citizens of Holly Springs as the attorneys Jeremiah Watkins Clapp and J. W. C. Watson (*Laws of Mississippi*, 1859, 51-61). On 10 August 1860, a transaction occurred that casts some light on Boling's work as master builder. On that date, Dr. Gray W. Smith and his wife conveyed to "S. Boling & Co." the city block bounded by the present streets of Randolph, College, Maury, and Van Dorn, on which stood Dr. Smith's fine brick residence (DB Z:12). We learn from a latter deed (DB26:46) that in 1866 S. Boling & Co.—composed of S. Boling, W. C. Dunn, and Stephen W. Gregg—forfeited title to the block conveyed by the Smiths because it had been conveyed "in return for building Dr. Smith a mansion on the outskirts of Holly Springs." The firm had been unable to complete the house because of the war, and the uncompleted structure was burned by Sherman's army on 21 December 1862, one of a number of buildings burned in retaliation for Van Dorn's devastating raid on General U. S. Grant's base of supplies in Holly Springs the preceding day.

Gregg and Dunn, ages 28 and 23 respectively, were Ohio-born carpenters living with four other carpenters in a Holly Springs inn at the time of the 1860 census. The six were most likely employed by Boling. By the close of the war Gregg, who may have been Boling's nephew, and Dunn, who married Boling's daughter Harriet in 1865, had become his partners.

Boling made a decided financial recovery during the Holly Springs building boom of the late 1860s and early 1870s. In 1866, he was major stockholder in the Marshall Manufacturing Company, incorporated to deal in lumber and iron castings among other items (*Laws of Mississippi*, 1866:172). According to John Mickle, when the local Masonic lodge made plans to rebuild the three story Masonic Hall destroyed during Van Dorn's raid, "Mr. Boling, who was also a distiller, offered the...Lodge a turnkey job if they would give him a ten-year lease on the ground floor to sell whiskey." Though the lodge declined and financed the structure by a bond issue, Boling was still chosen contractor. *The Holly Springs Reporter* of 7 December 1871 reveals, however, that the firm Boling and Reed, Wholesale and Retail Liquor Dealers, was located in the Masonic Building. The same year that he built the Masonic Hall (1870), Boling joined eight other Holly Springs citizens, including Colonel Harvey W. Walter and General Winfield Scott Featherston, in incorporating the Holly Springs Hotel Company—the major hostelleries having been destroyed in the course of the war (*Laws of Mississippi*, 1870:384-85).

The Boling children were very much involved in the social life of the town. Mr. Mickle remembers Walter Boling, "my classmate at Chalmers Institute," the boys' school dating back to the early days of the town, and Miss Nannie Boling, "one of the belles of the sixties and early seventies." Among the other children were Harriet Boling, who married William C. Dunn, Marshall Boling, a druggist last found in the 1870 Holly Springs census, Thomas Boling, who as a child fell into a vat at the distillery, was scalded and died in 1868; and Emma Boling, who married Dr. Lea A. Stephenson in 1871. The Stephensons, both red-haired, were an attractive and fashionable young couple. In the fall of 1871, they built the Victorian cottage on the southwest corner of Salem and Walthall (occupied for much of the twentieth century by the Baird family). Nearly all of Spires Boling's children were consumptive and died early deaths. Several are no doubt buried without tombstones in the Boling lot at Hill Crest Cemetery, as is Spires Boling. The lot is marked only by a marble threshold piece carved with the family name.

Spires Boling is listed in the 1870 census as an architect, with \$11,000 real property and \$2,000 personal property, sums representing a good recovery only five years after the close of the war. But like a number of other citizens, he was ruined by the Panic of 1873 and the ensuing depression. On 23 February 1874, he lost the Randolph Street property as a result of indebtedness (DB 36:294). The Boling family, however, continued to occupy the family residence, as tenants of Boling's friend Judge Gordentia Waite, who had held the note on the property. Spires Boling died there of consumption in February of 1880 at the age of sixty-seven (*Mississippi Mortality Schedule for 1880*, p. 7). On 29 December 1881, Mrs. Nancy Boling was dismissed by letter from the Holly Springs Methodist Church because of her removal to Jackson, Tennessee. In 1882, she made a visit from Jackson to the J. B. Johnsons, who were occupying the Boling house on Randolph. That is the last trace I have uncovered of the family in Holly Springs.

But Spires Boling has left his mark on the architecture of Holly Springs. No one will probably ever be able to assemble a complete list of the Holly Springs structures for which Boling is responsible. It is possible only to make a tentative partial list. First, there are the Greek Revival frame cottages. Boling's own frame residence on Randolph Street, which was standing by the summer of 1860, was replicated in the house he built for Dr. Samuel Creed Gholson on the southwest corner of Randolph and Van Dorn, begun shortly after Gholson purchased the lot in the fall of 1860 and completed after the war had begun (DB Y:252). The Gholson house, though it has undergone two renovations and a fire, still retains the old doors and millwork and the attenuated octagonal columns. Even these two simple structures reflect Boling's eclecticism in the unusual proportional relation of column to portico. The original fanlights in the pediment (still extant in Boling's own residence) are a feature carried over from the Greek Revival mansions that Boling had built.

It is these mansions of the late 1850s and early 1860s that are his major contribution. In addition to the Clapp house (now called Athenia) posited by Mr. Mickle, we have documentary evidence that Spires Boling was the contractor for the grandest of the Holly Springs mansions, Walter Place, which he completed in 1860 (DB 50:8). He likely built other houses for which no documentary evidence is extant. I suspect that he built all the Greek Revival mansions of Salem Avenue—the home of Dr. David Pointer at the eastern end of Salem Avenue (probably the first of these mansions, which burned in 1898 while housing St. Thomas Hall, a boys' military academy), the home (known now as Wakefield) of Dr. Pointer's son-in-law Joel E. Wynne, who was Boling's subcontractor for the Walter Place, and the home of Joel Wynne's close friend Robert McGowan (known now as Montrose, erected in 1860). These structures appear to be the work of the same person. Thus Spires Boling would be the man responsible for what I have heard Eudora Welty call "those vertical Holly Springs houses," the particular Holly Springs version of the columned Greek Revival mansion.

The late 1860s and early 1870s were also evidently a productive period for Boling. In addition to the Masonic Hall (destroyed by fire in 1951), I suspect that he was also responsible for other buildings on the north and east sides of the Holly Springs square (which had been left in ashes by Van Dorn's raid). The cast iron lintels used above the windows on some of these buildings are identical to those on Walter Place, and may well be a Boling signature. The only residential project that I can tentatively assign to him is the transformation of the old Nelson place on College Avenue into an Italianate mansion for James J. House in 1870. The structure, known in this century as Grey Gables, is the only residence in town to compare in grandeur with the ante-bellum Greek Revival mansions. I want to attribute it to Boling for two reasons: first the similarity of certain features (the stairway, the dining room) to those of the Clapp house, which Mr. Mickle credits to Boling; and second, the business connections between House and Boling (See DB 26: 579) and between House and Boling's son in law William C. Dunn, who had moved to Jackson, Tennessee, with House after the latter went bankrupt. Grey Gables also has the same lintels used on Walter Place and buildings on the square.



The Boling-Gatewood Place, at the corner of Salem and Randolph, now the Ida B. Wells Art Gallery. The house is built on the site of the home of pioneer settler W. S. Randolph. Mr. Mickle wrote that, "The house stands at the head of Salem Avenue and the north line of Section 6 runs west through the hall. The township line also runs through it."

Photo by R. Milton Winter.

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Note that spelling of names often varies from article to article, and that old newspapers often contained typographical errors. Every effort has been made to list names as accurately as possible.

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